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Medhat et al.

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(54) **SELF-REFERENCED SPECTROMETER**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 89 days.

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Related U.S. Application Data

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G01J 3/45 (2006.01)
G01J 3/02 (2006.01)

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **G01J 3/45** (2013.01); **G01J 3/021** (2013.01); **G01J 3/0205** (2013.01);
(Continued)

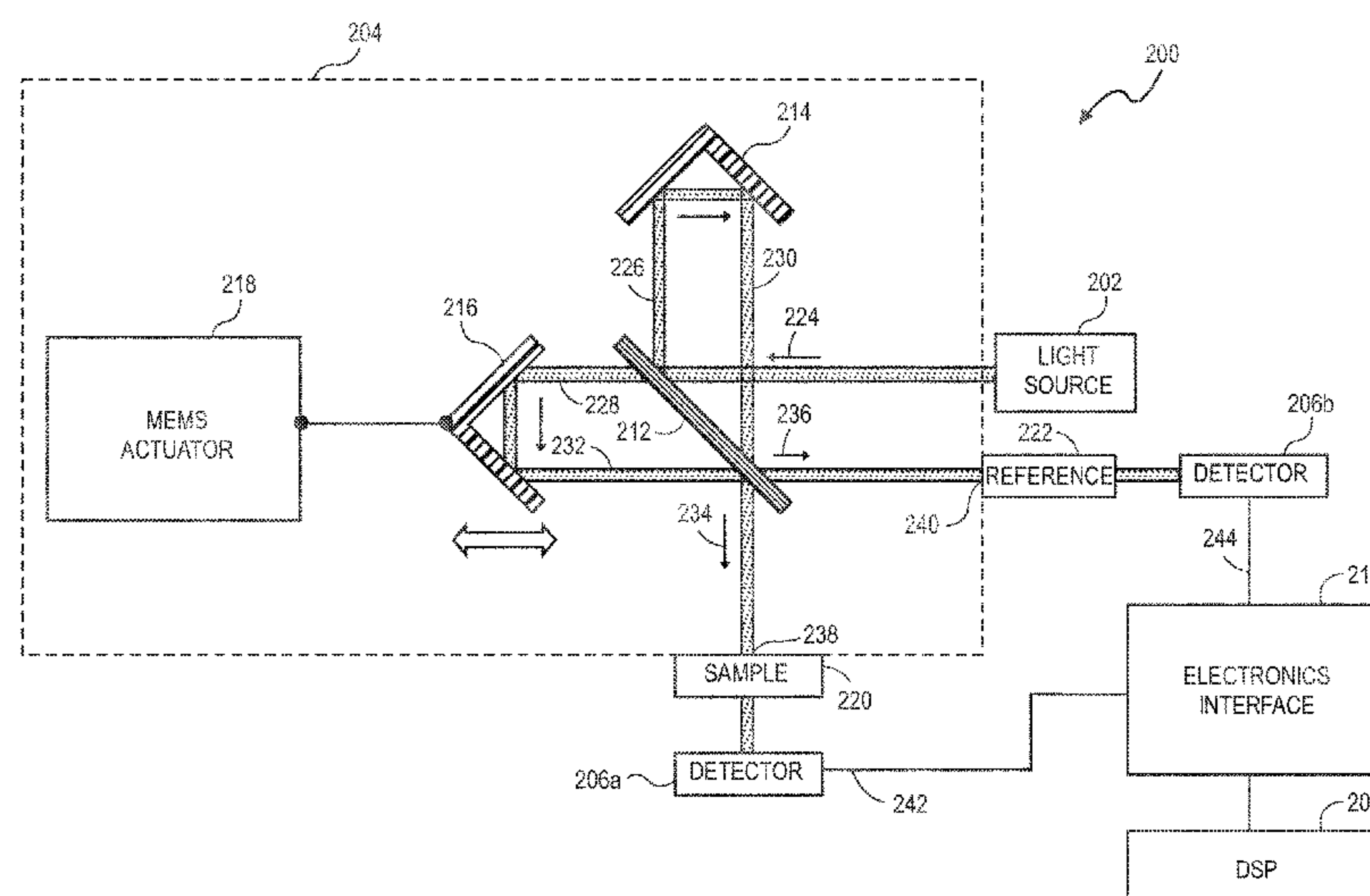
(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC G01J 3/42; G01J 3/45; G01J 3/4532; G01J 3/4534; G01J 3/4535; G01J 2003/425; G01J 3002/4534; G01J 3/26

See application file for complete search history.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Aspects of the disclosure relate to a self-referenced spectrometer for providing simultaneous measurement of a background or reference spectral density and a sample or other spectral density. The self-referenced spectrometer includes an interferometer optically coupled to receive an input beam and to direct the input beam along a first optical path to produce a first interfering beam and a second optical path to produce a second interfering beam, where each interfering beam is produced prior to an output of the interferometer. The spectrometer further includes a detector optically coupled to simultaneously detect a first interference signal produced from the first interfering beam and a second interference signal produced from the second interfering beam, and a processor configured to process the first interference signal and the second interference signal and to utilize the second interference signal as a reference signal in processing the first interference signal.

30 Claims, 22 Drawing Sheets



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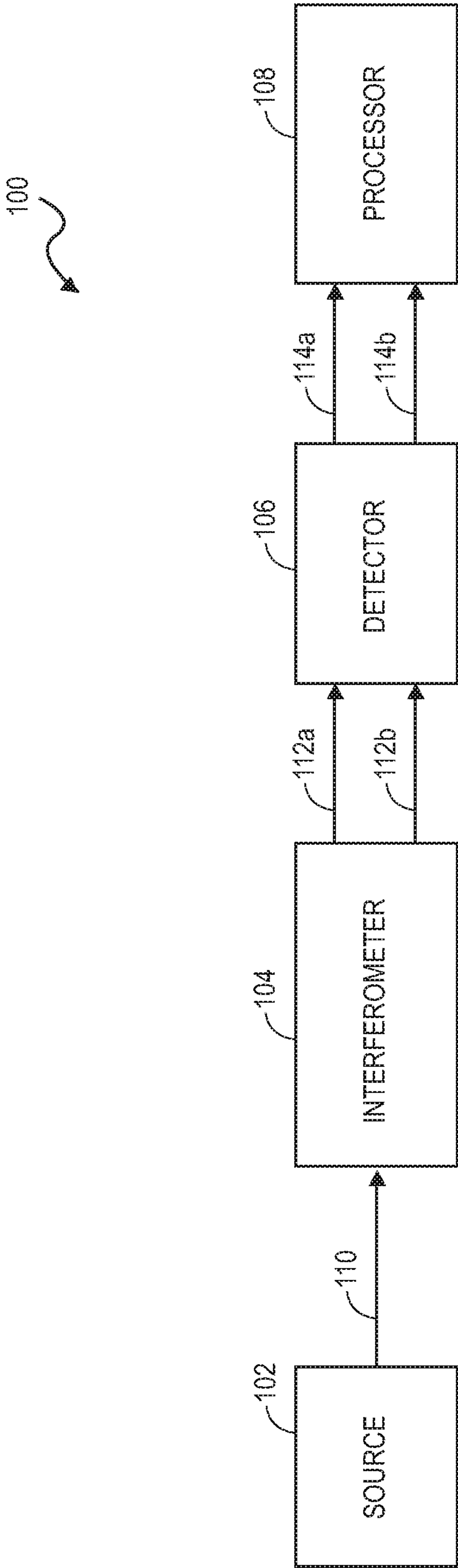


FIG. 1

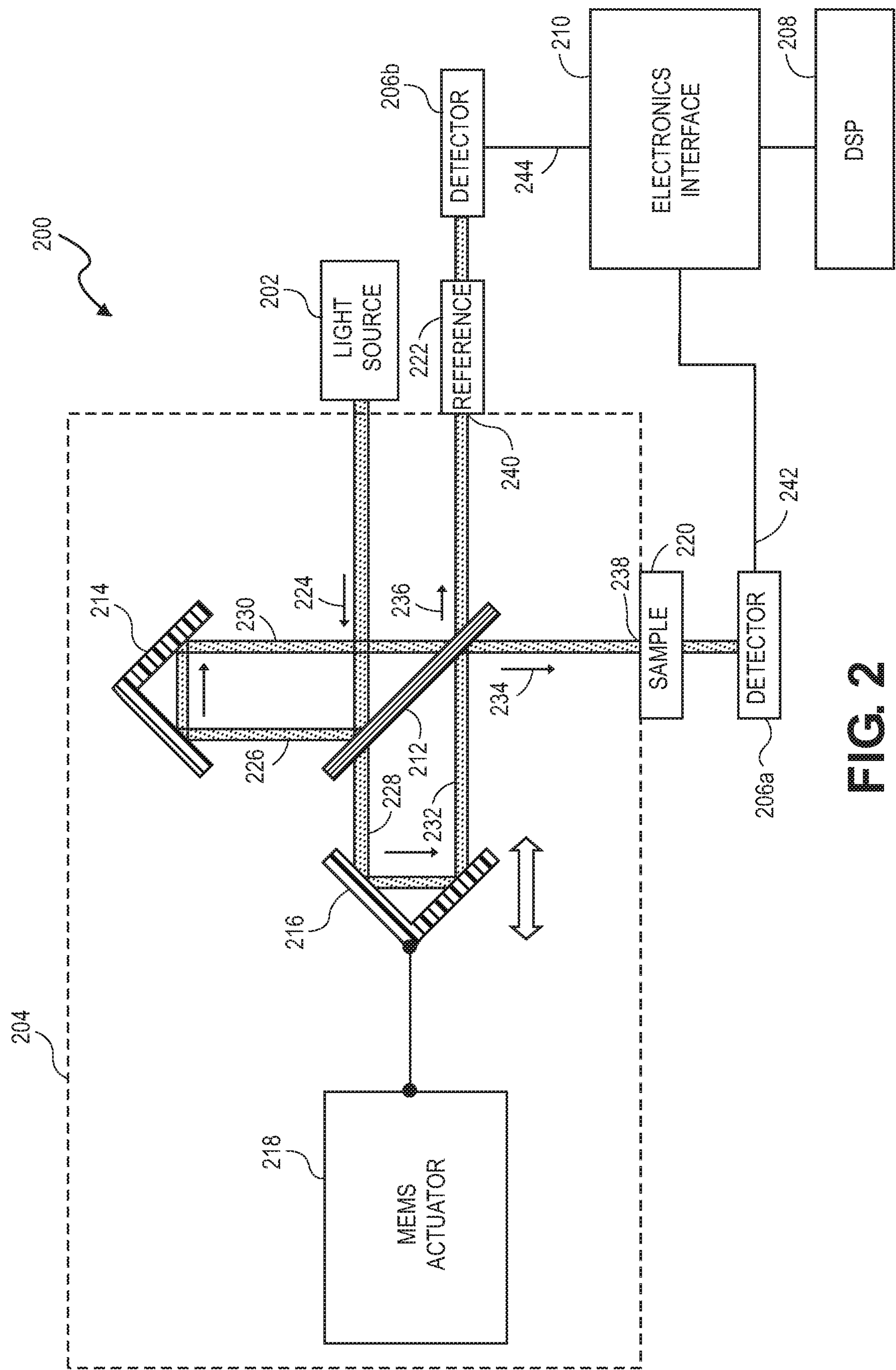


FIG. 2

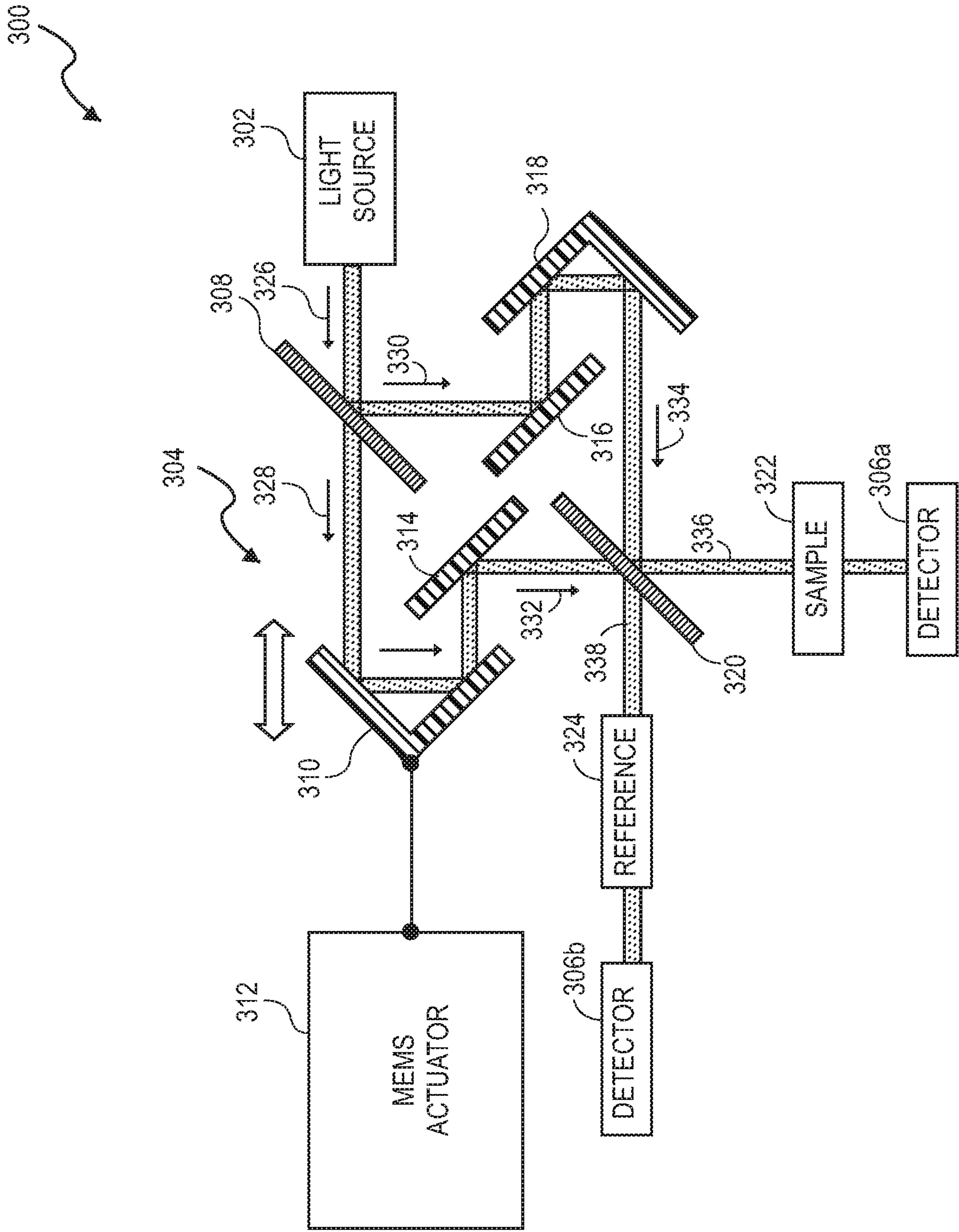


FIG. 3

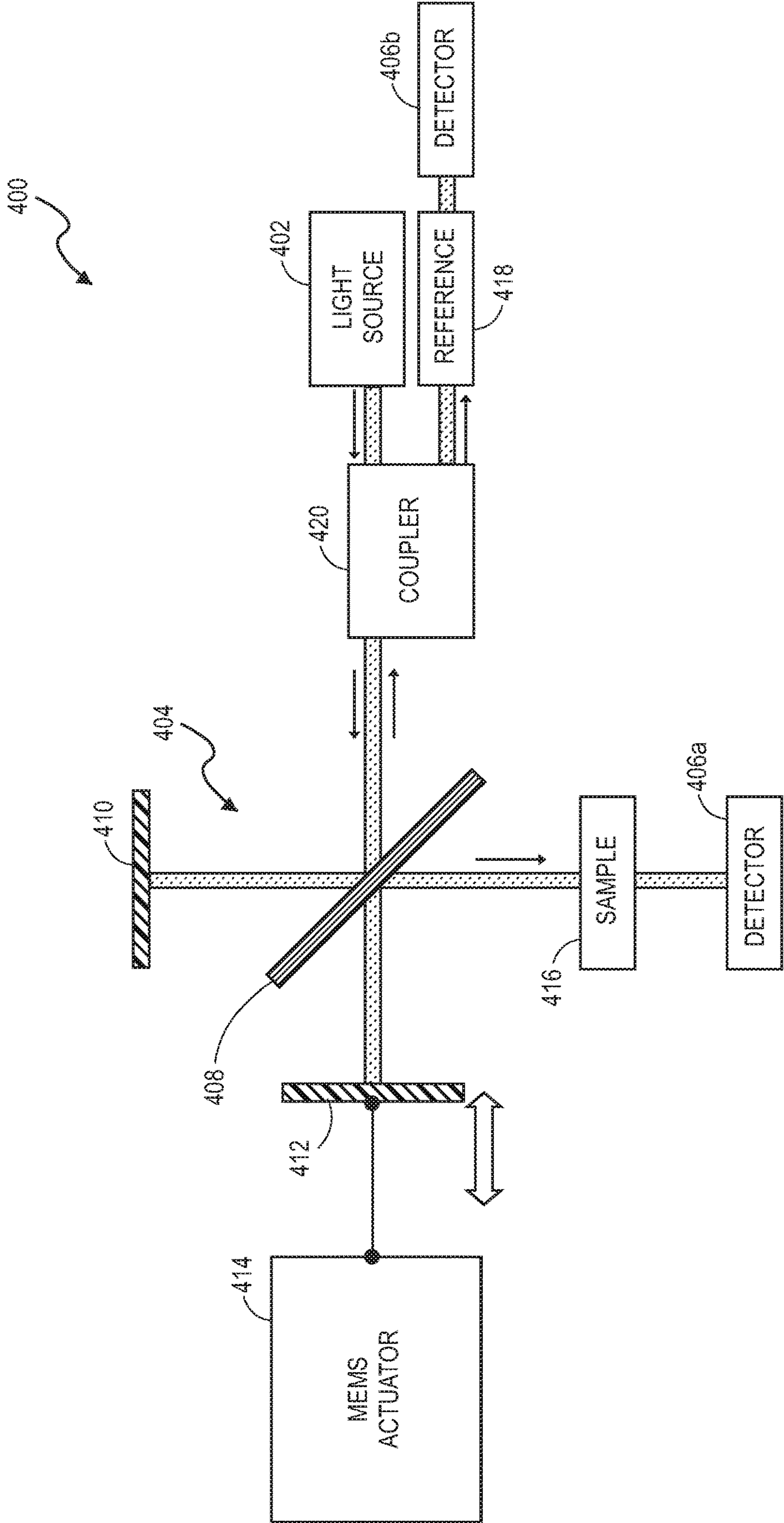


FIG. 4

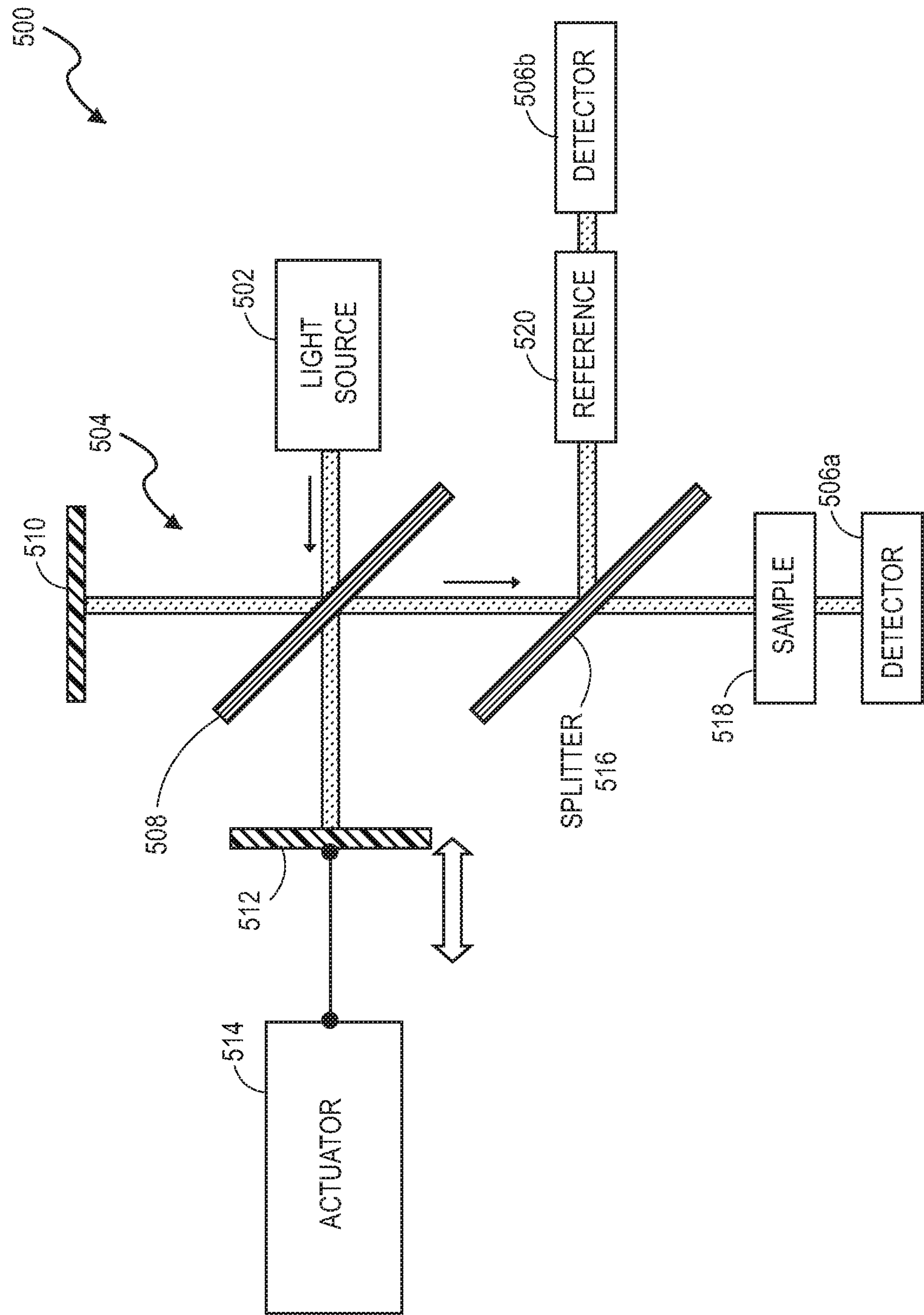


FIG. 5

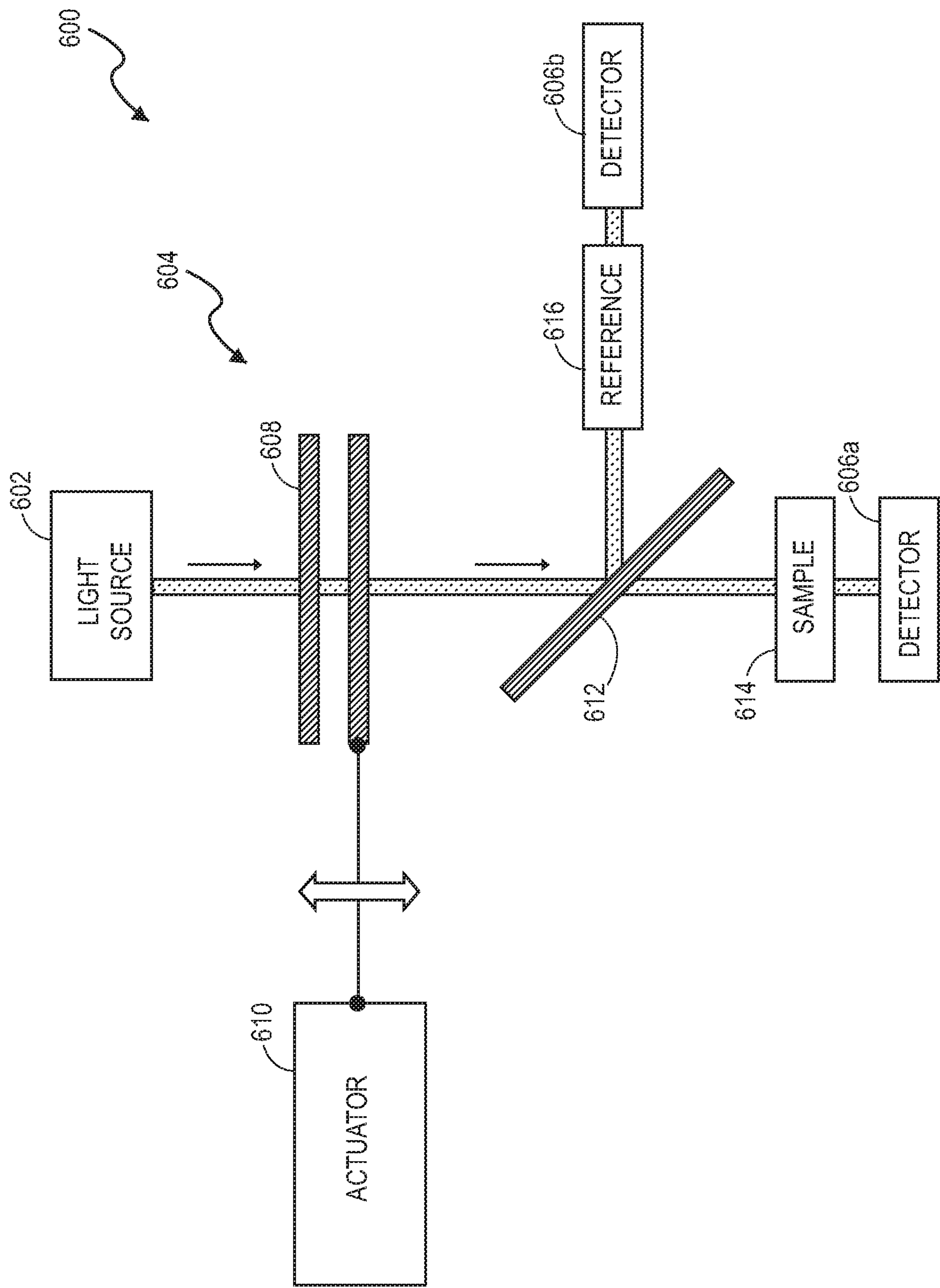


FIG. 6

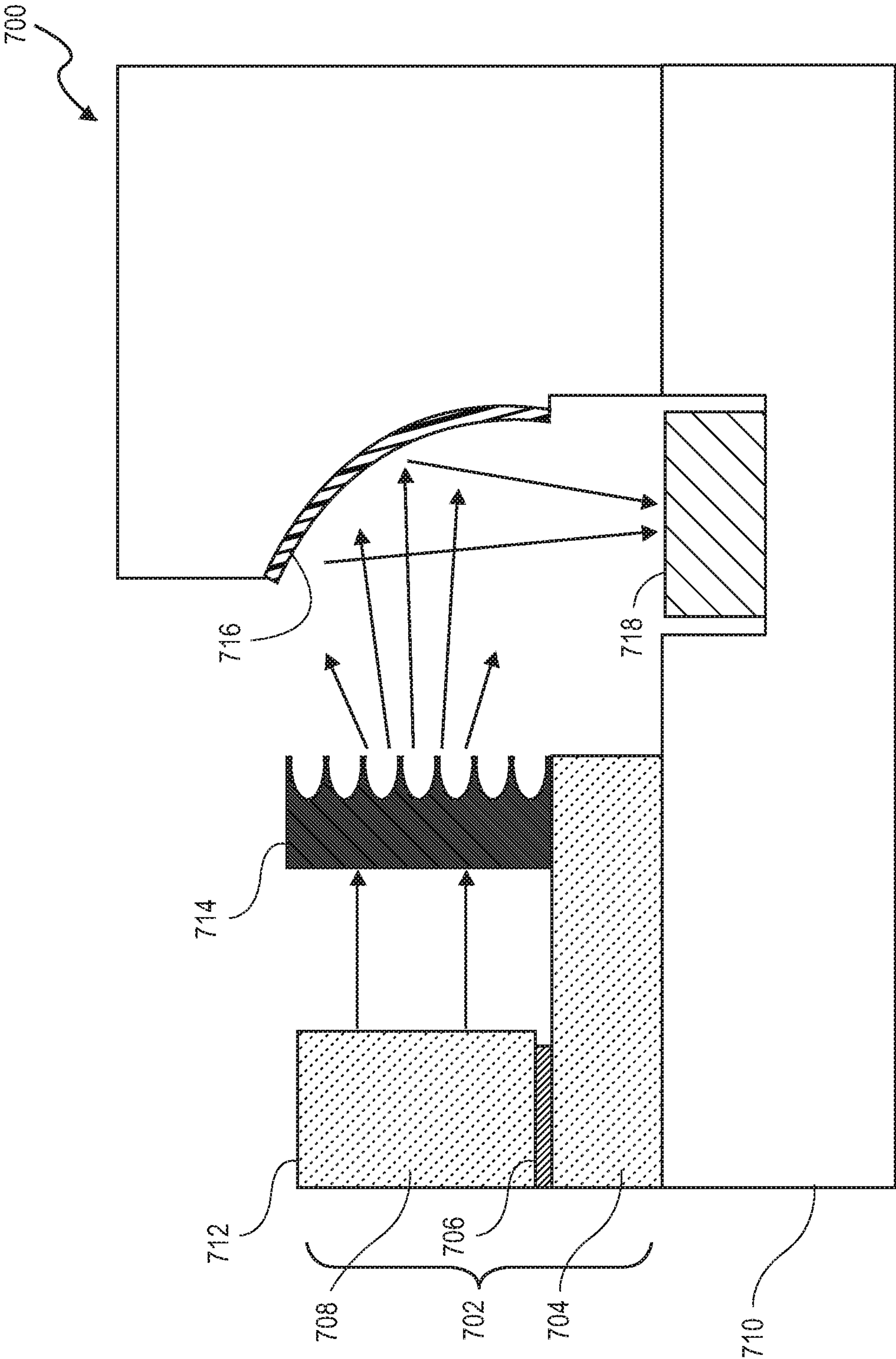


FIG. 7

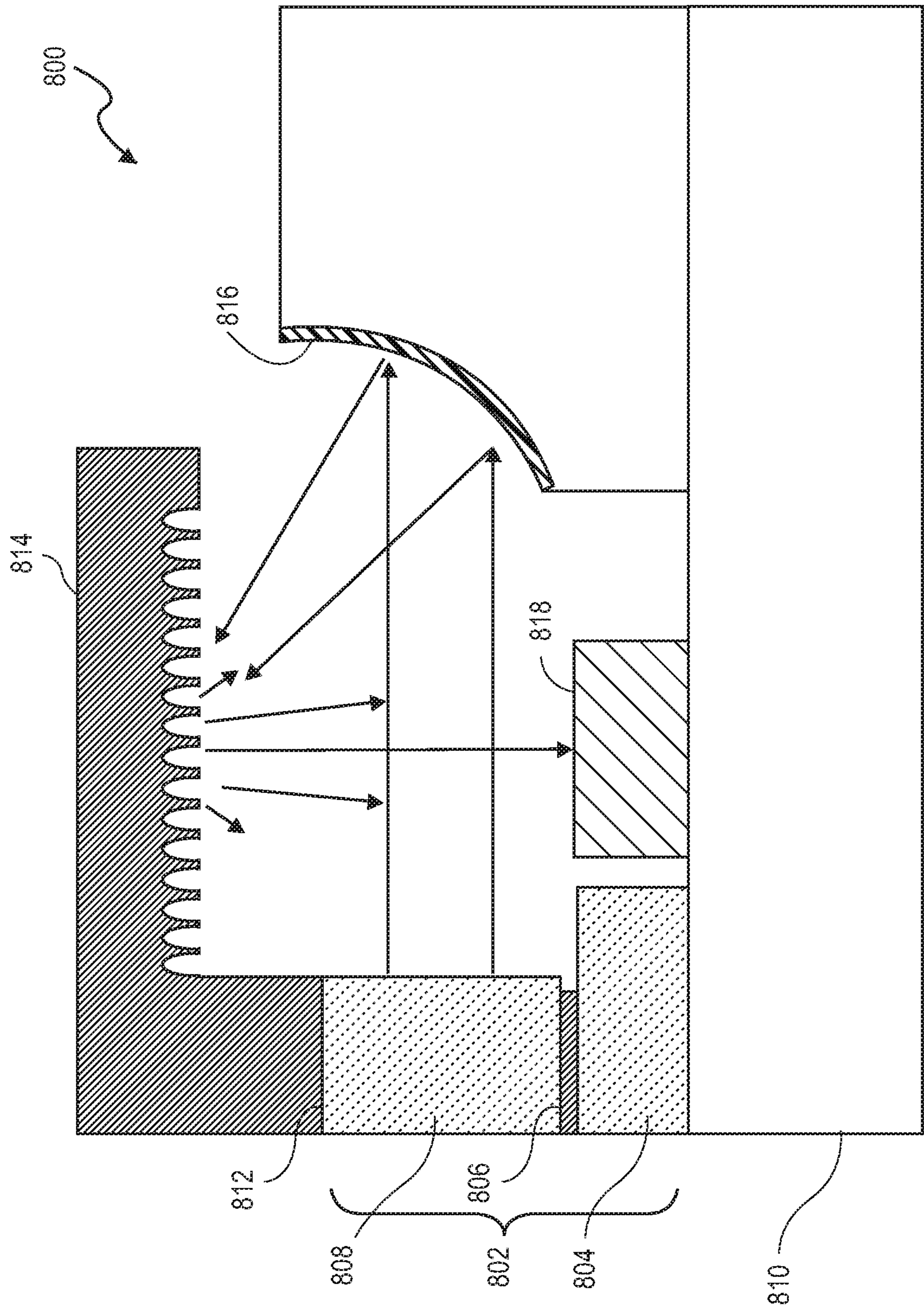


FIG. 8

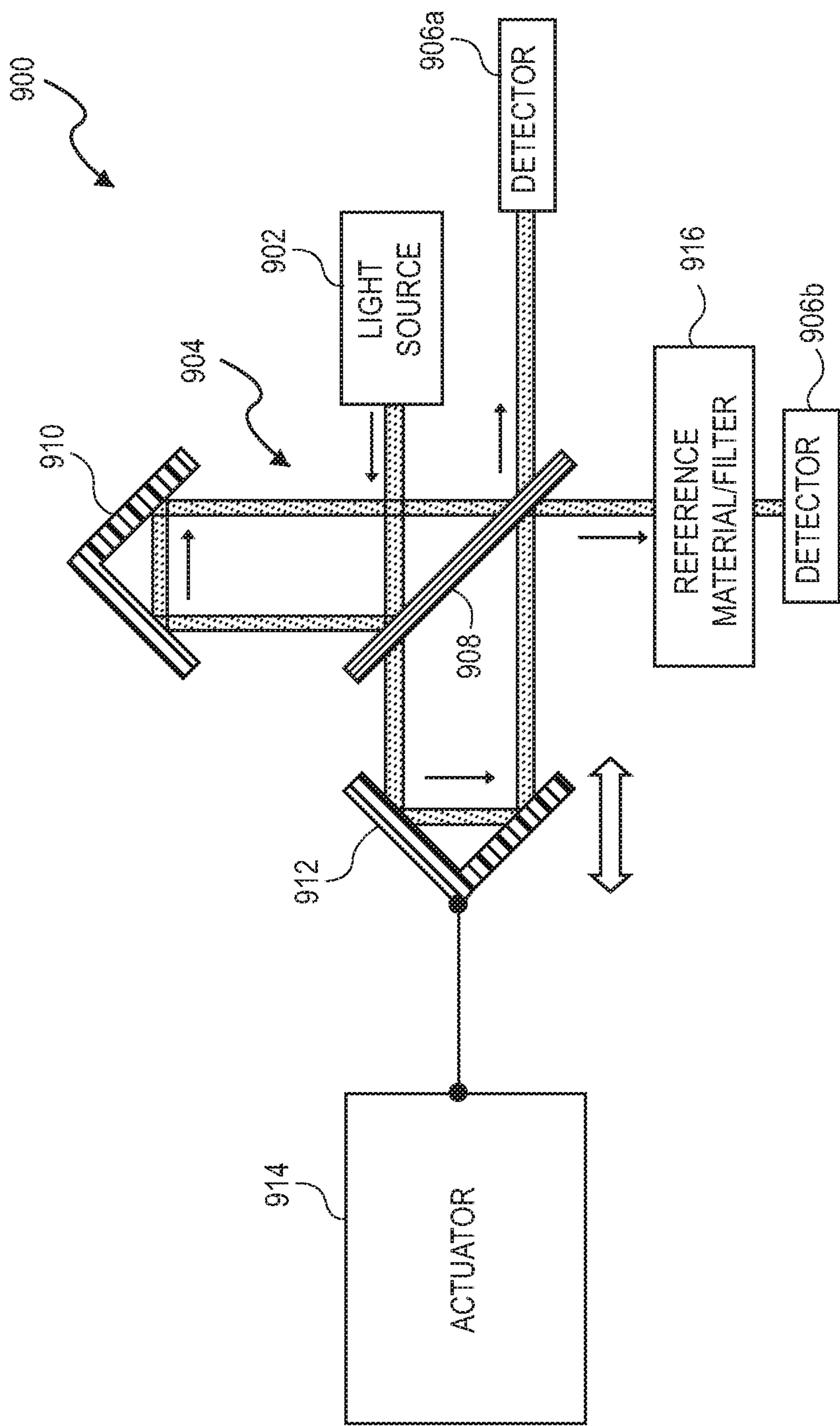


FIG. 9

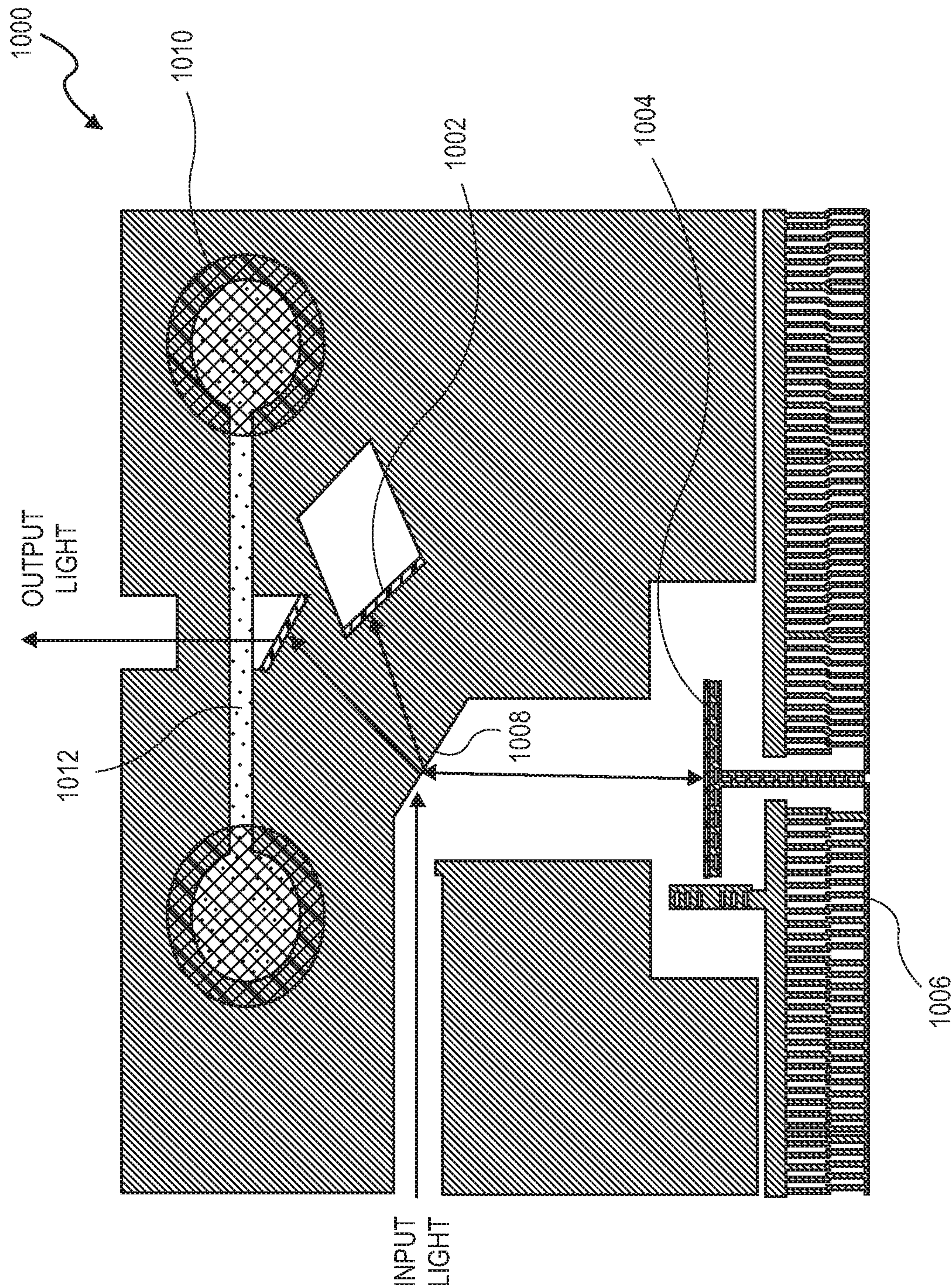


FIG. 10

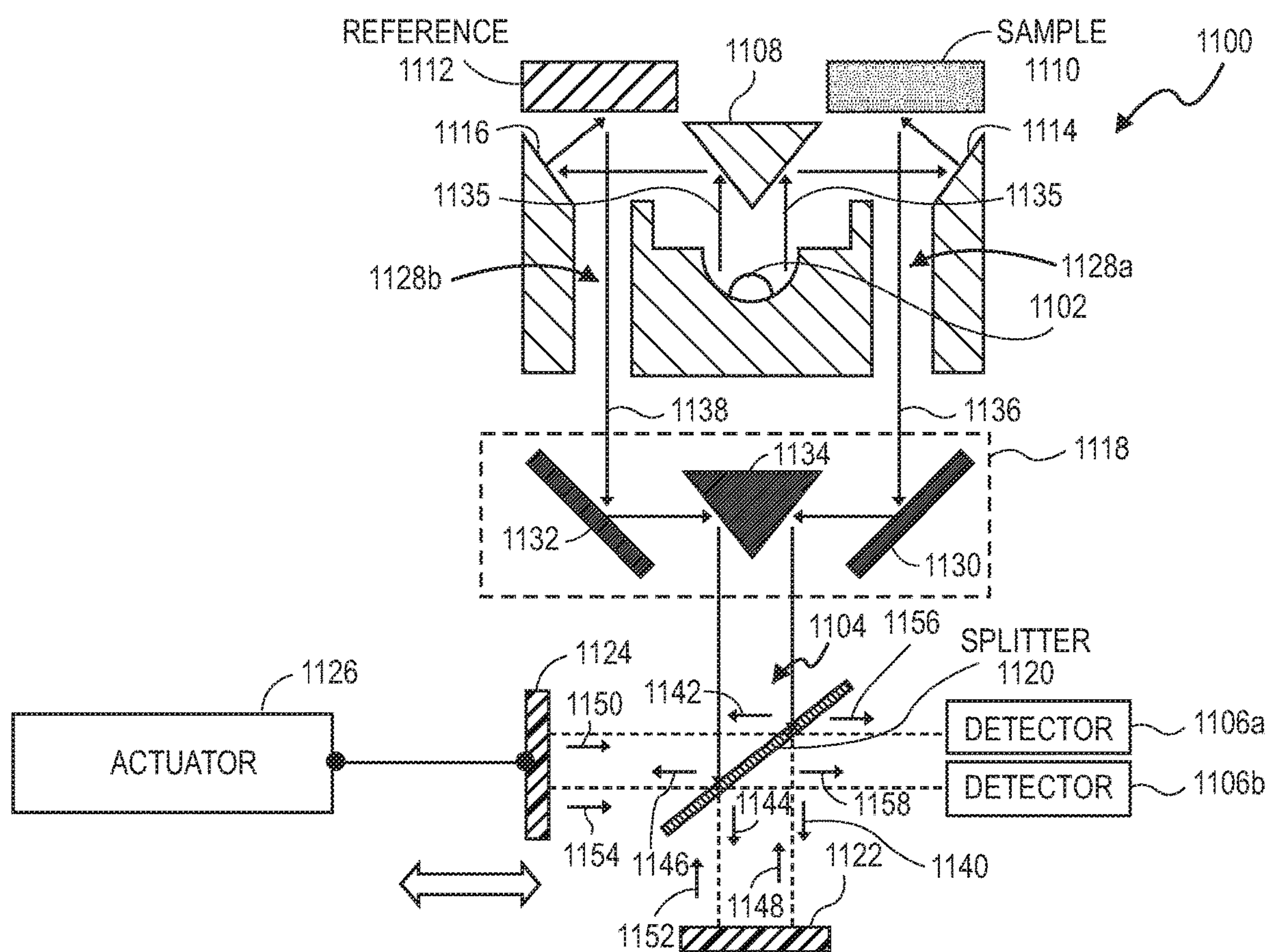


FIG. 11

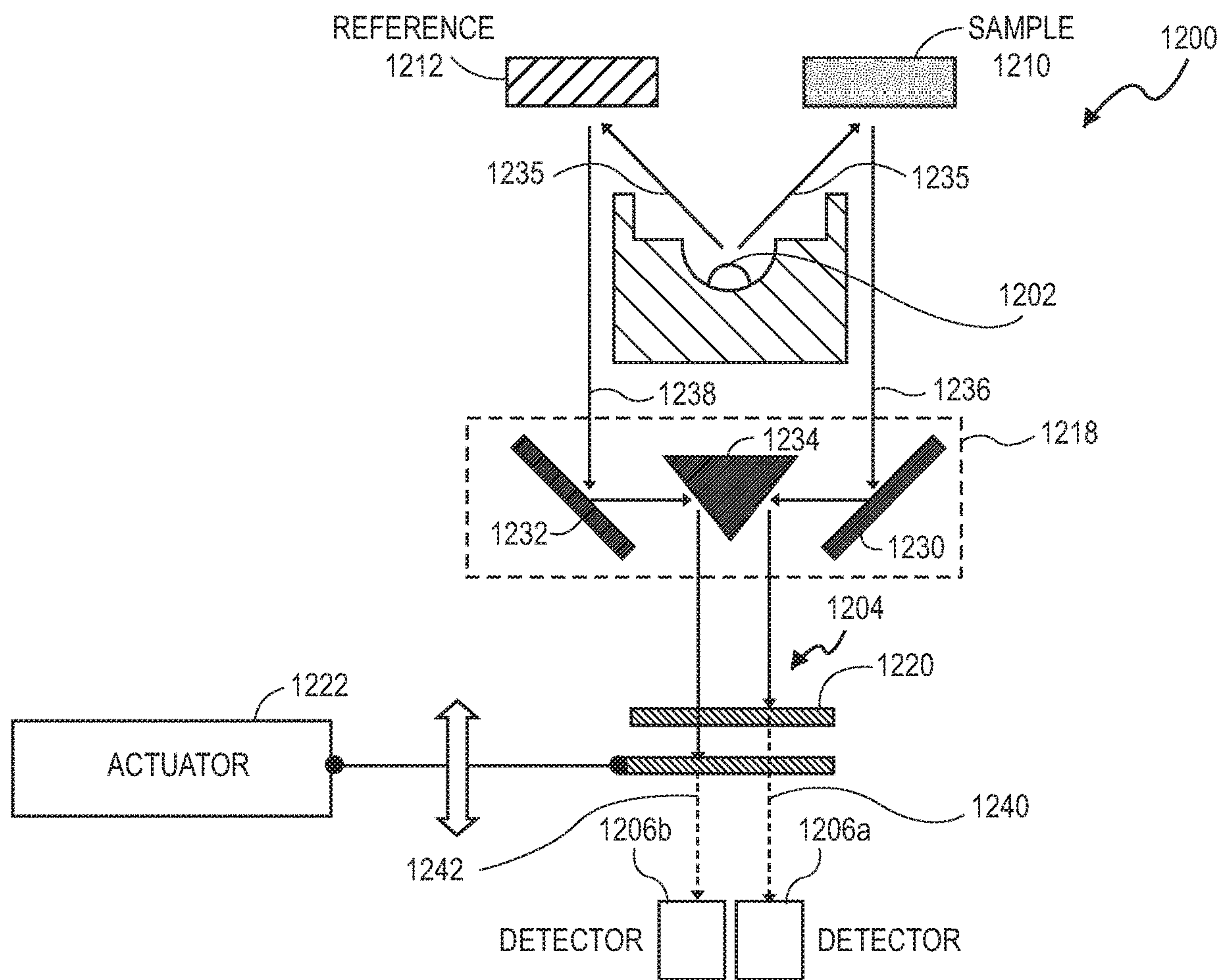


FIG. 12

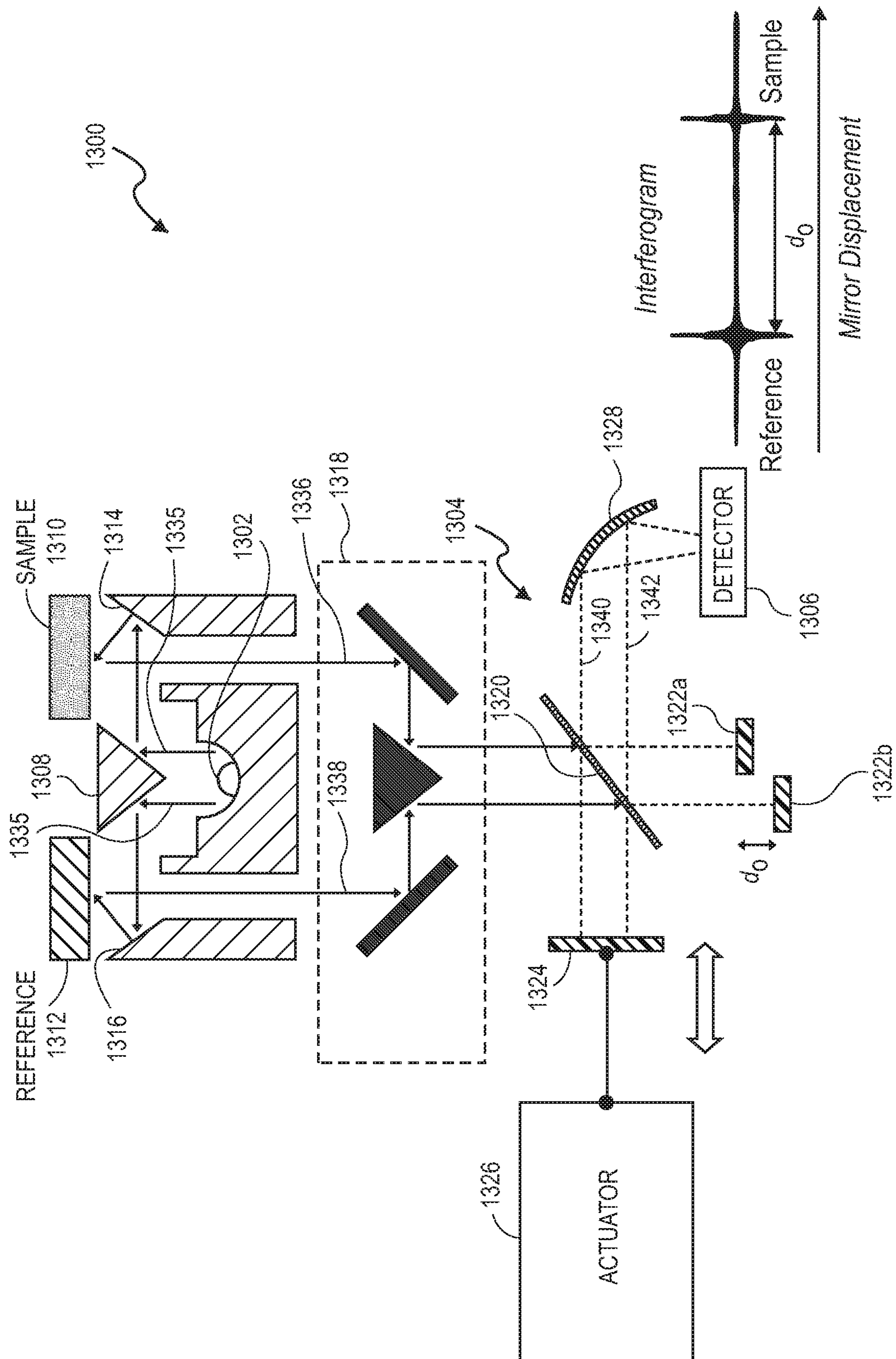


FIG. 13A

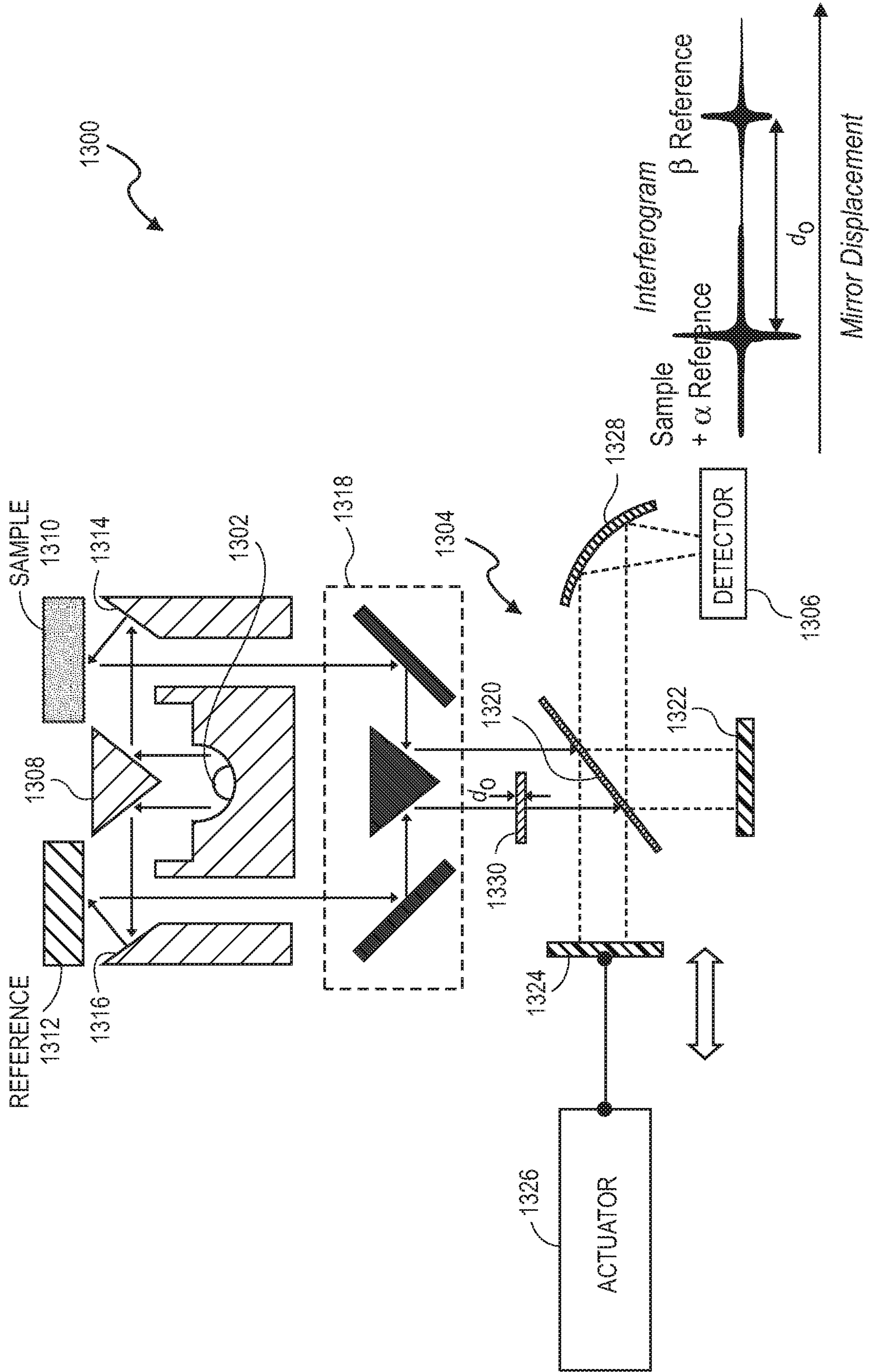


FIG. 13B

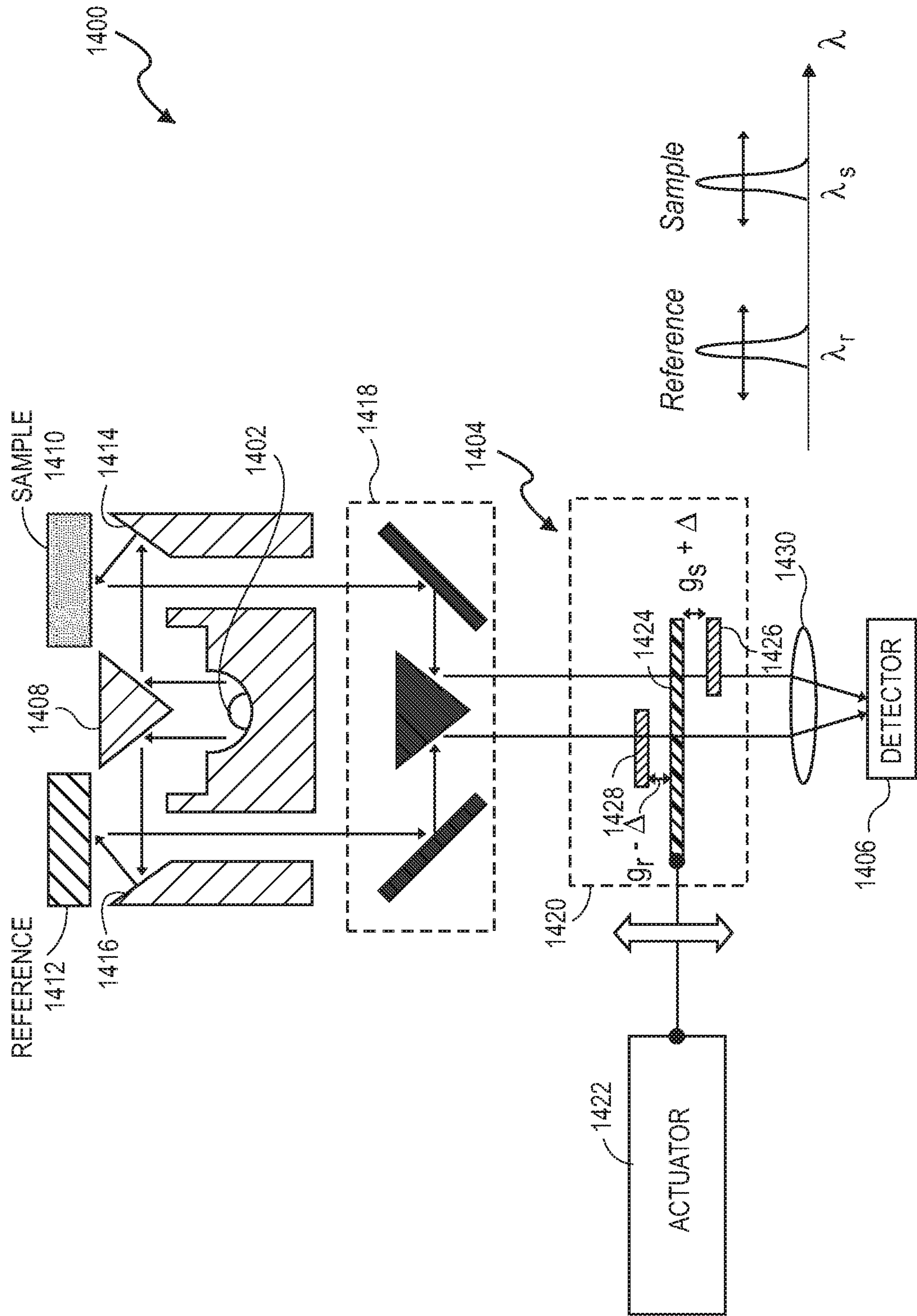


FIG. 14

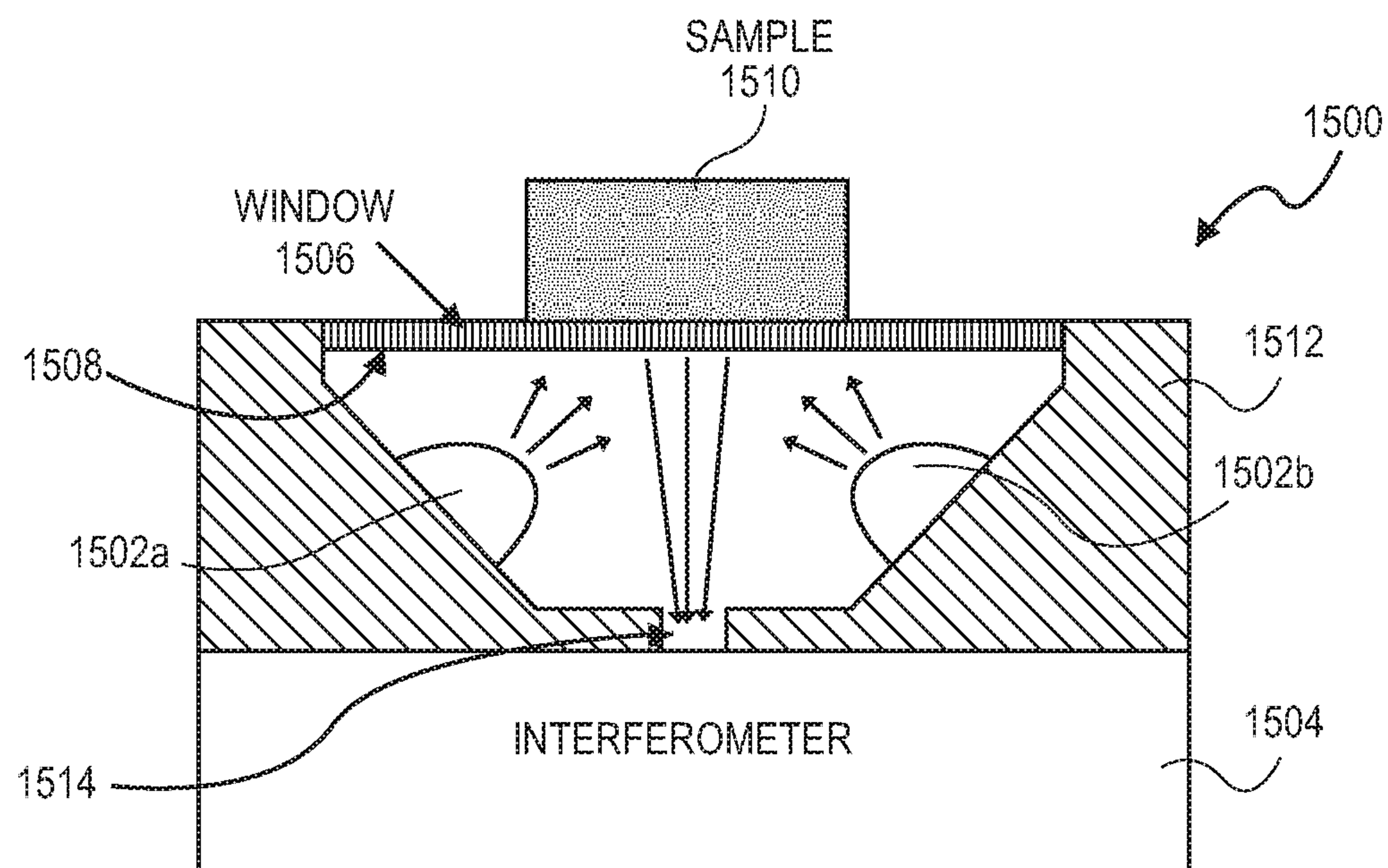


FIG. 15A

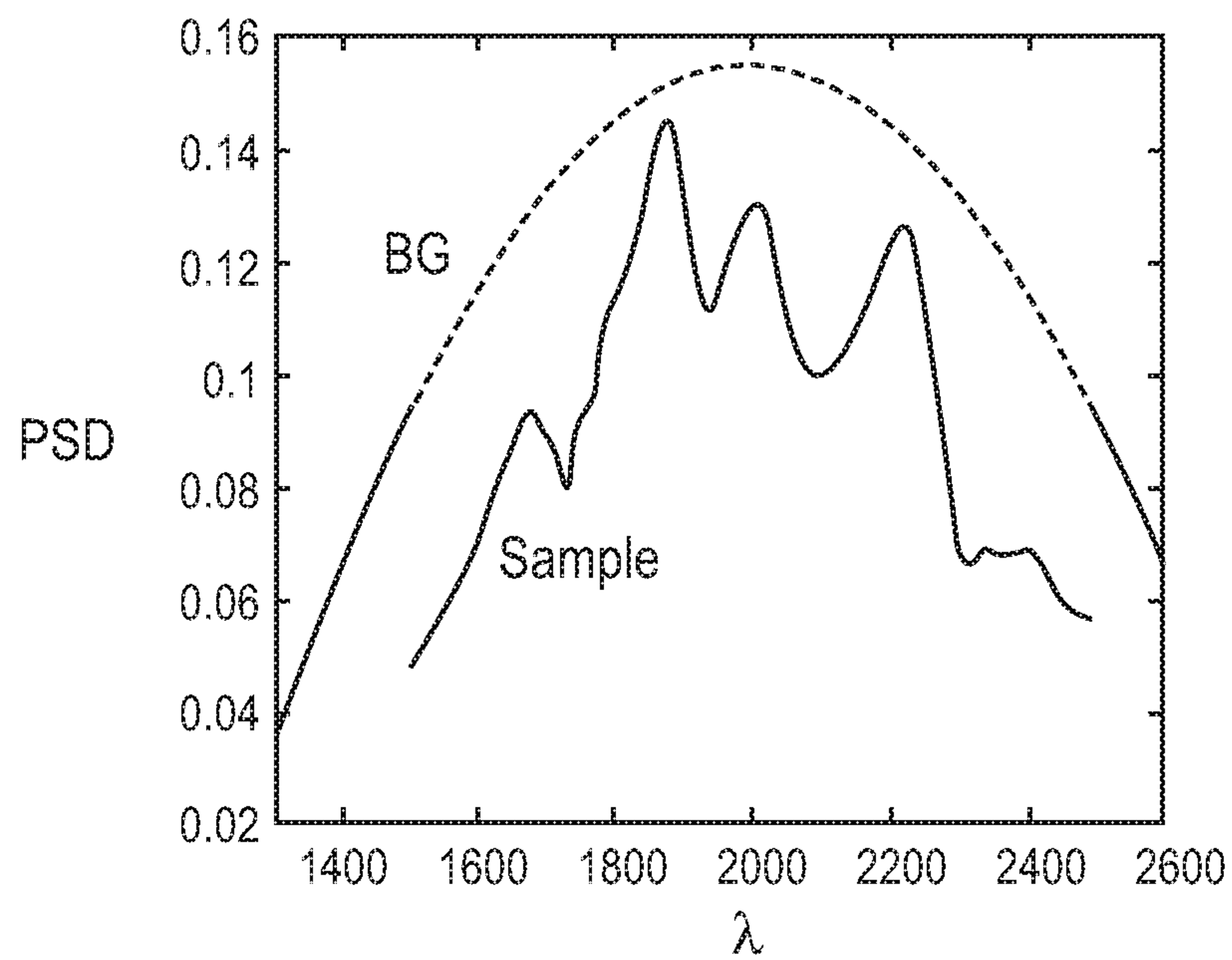


FIG. 15B

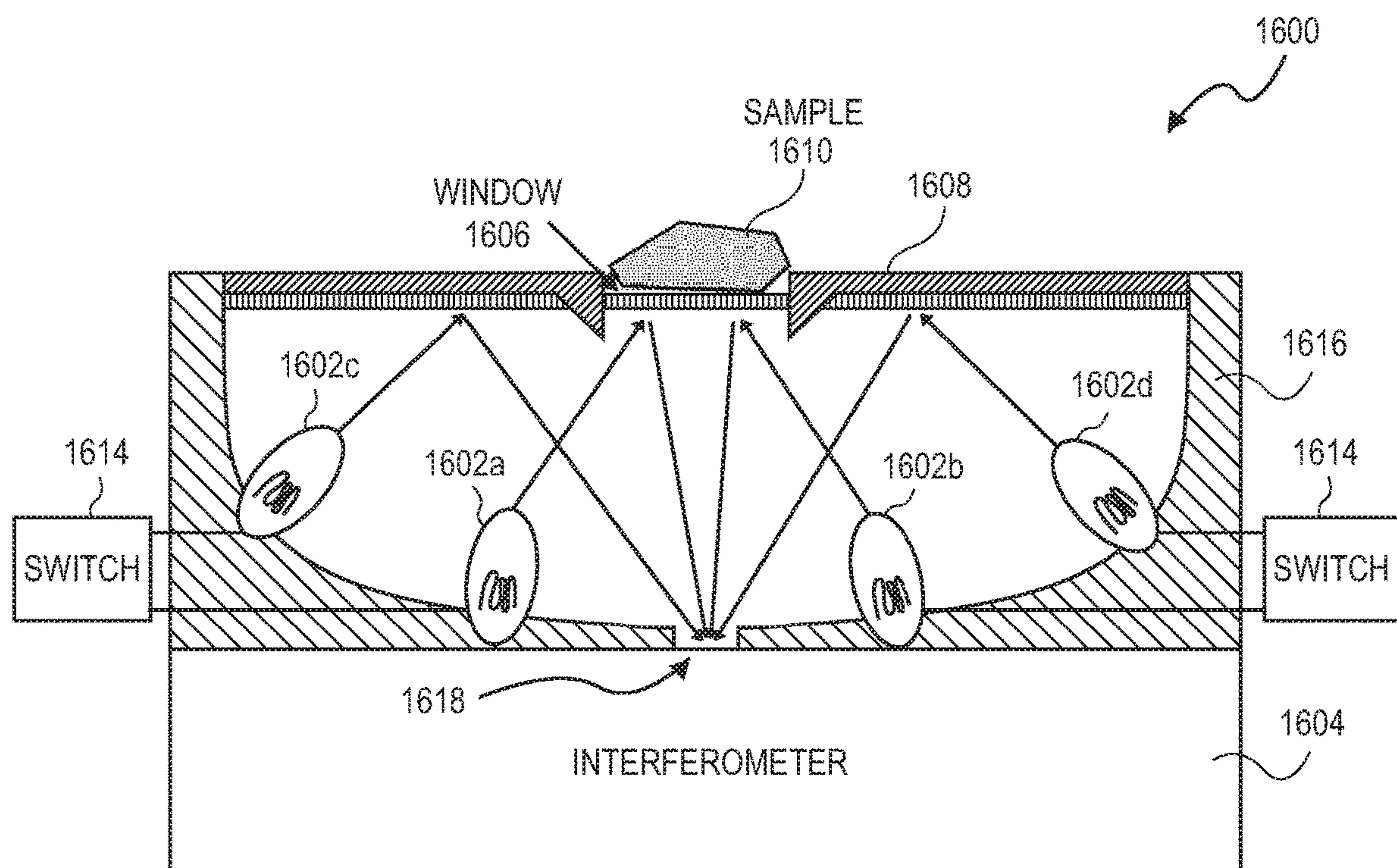


FIG. 16A

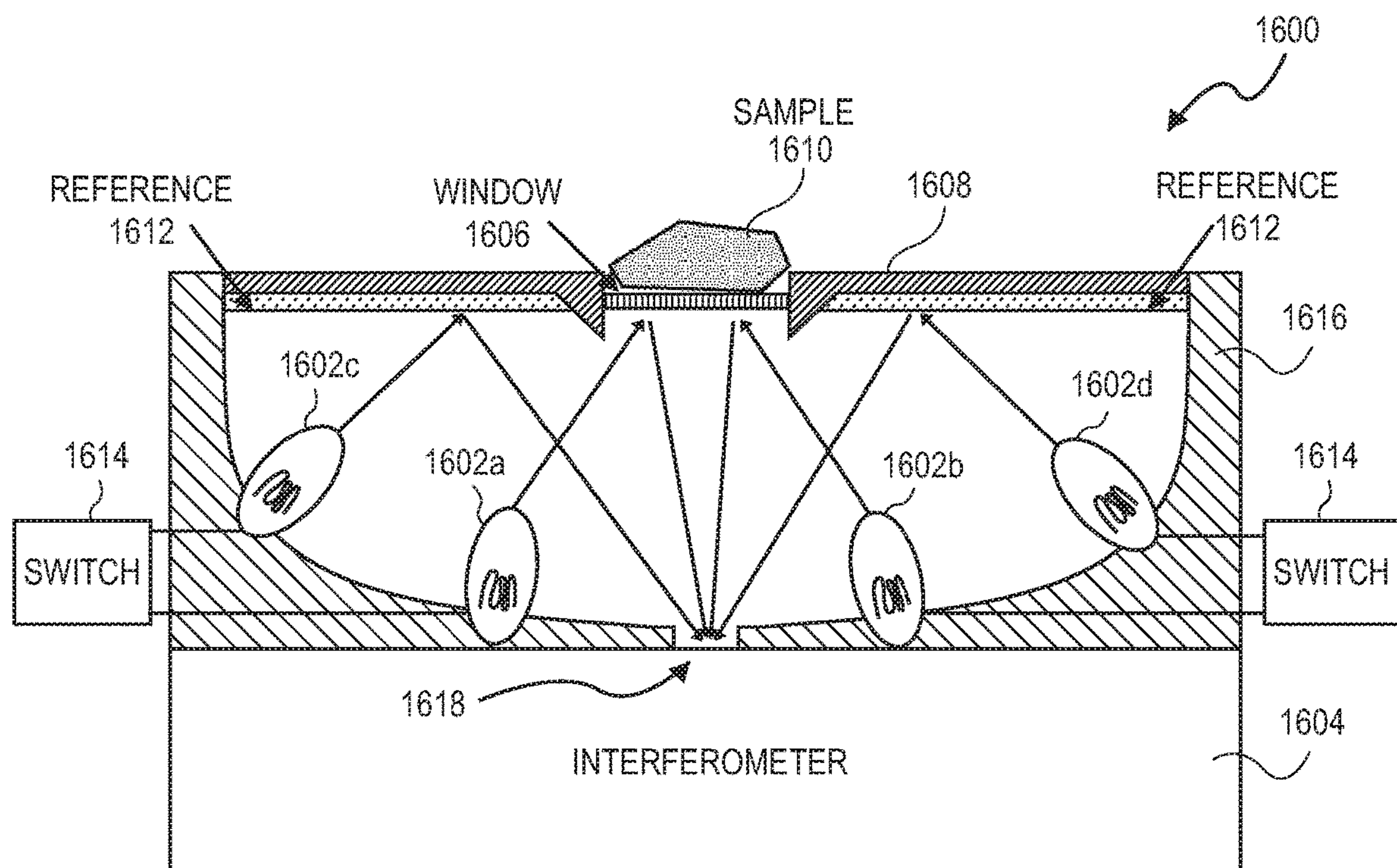


FIG. 16B

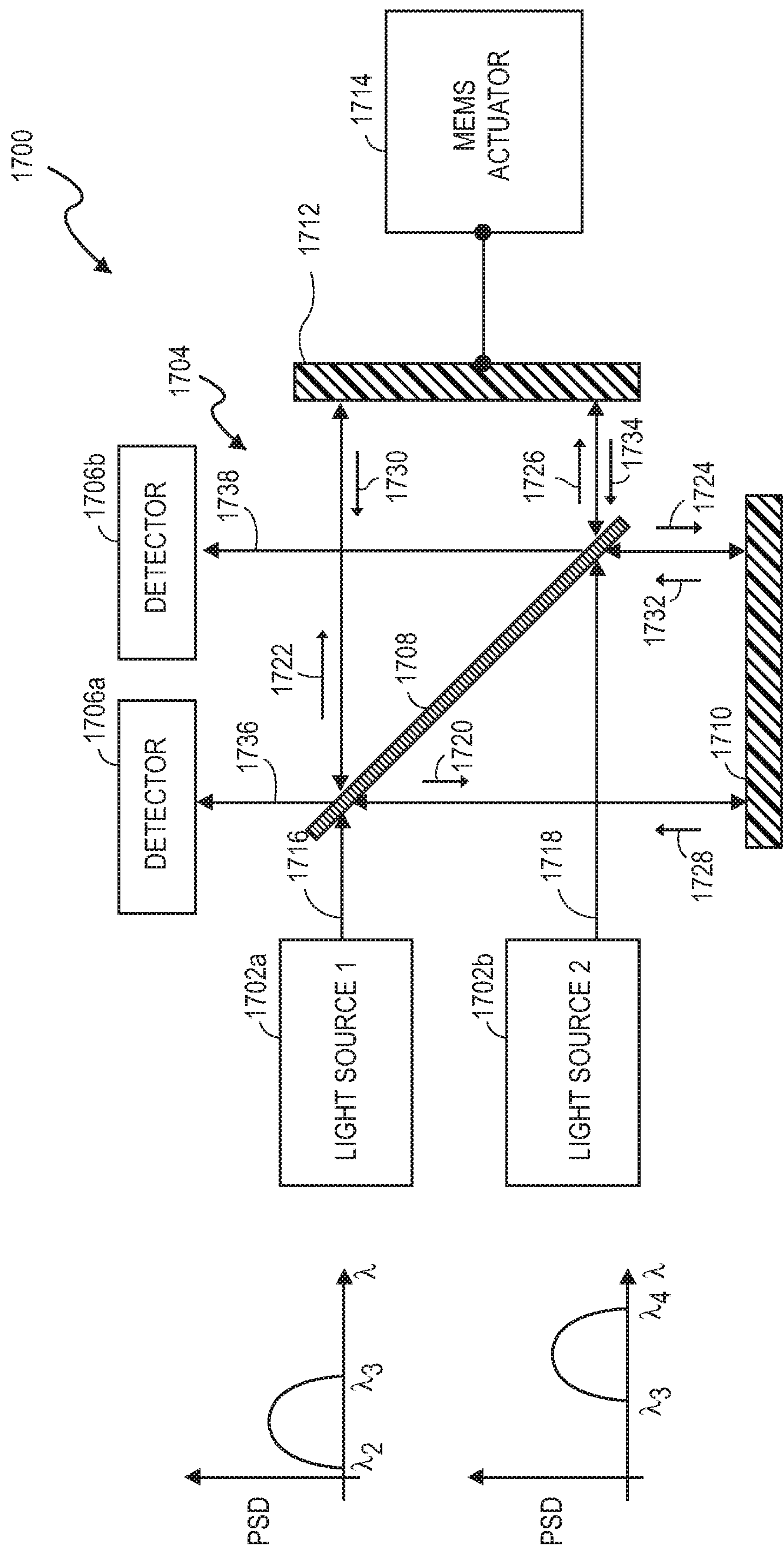


FIG. 17

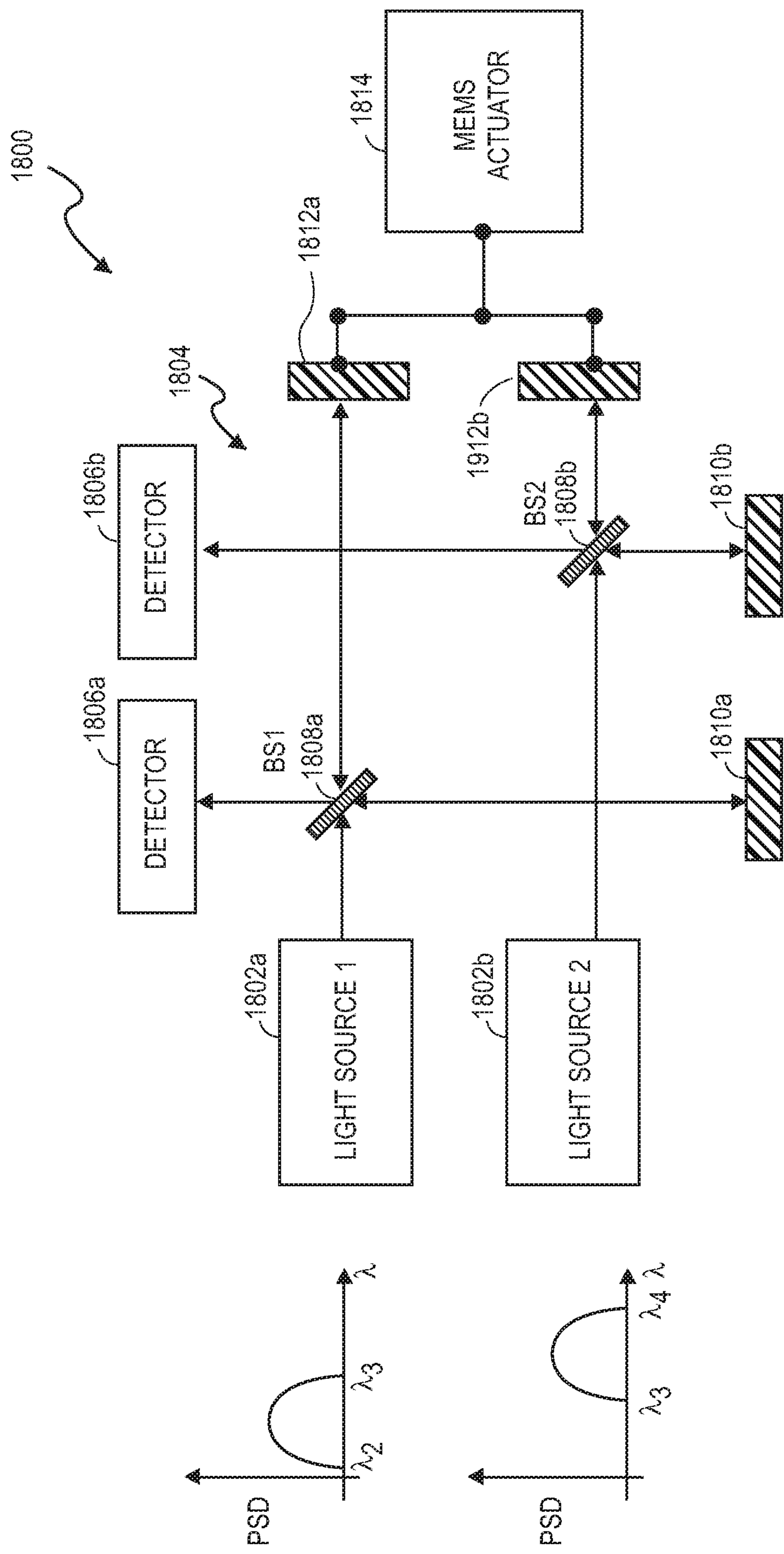


FIG. 18

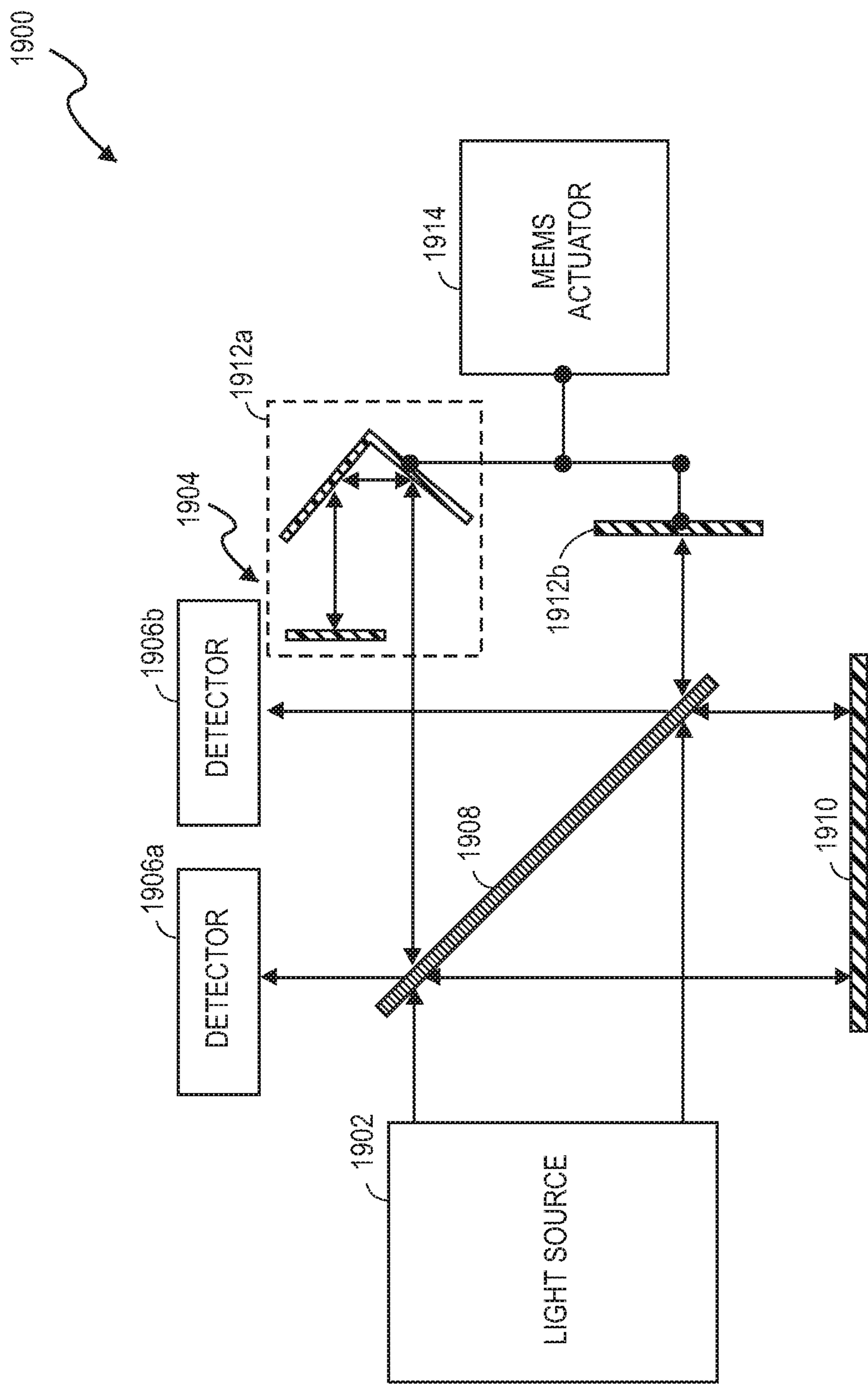
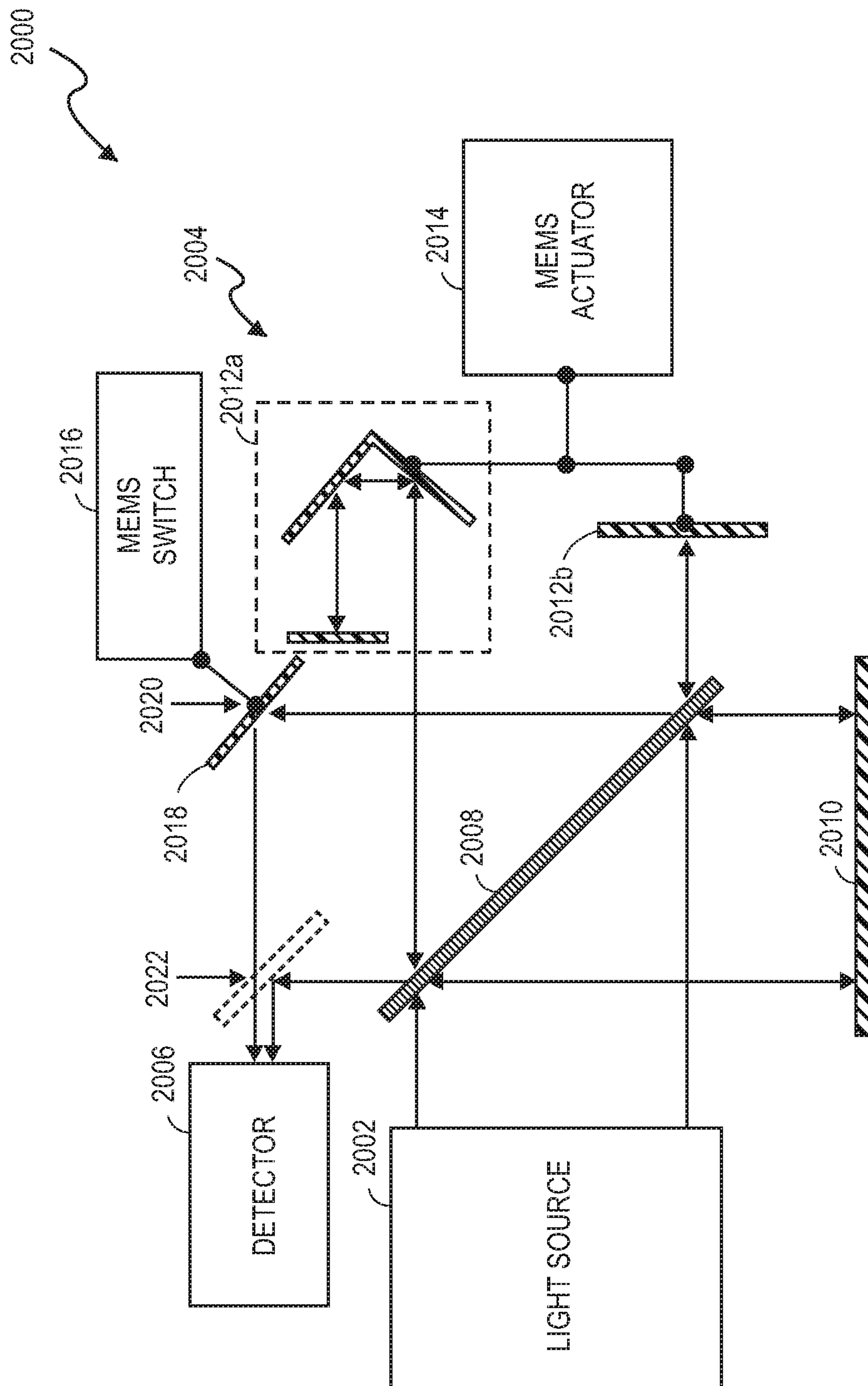


FIG. 19



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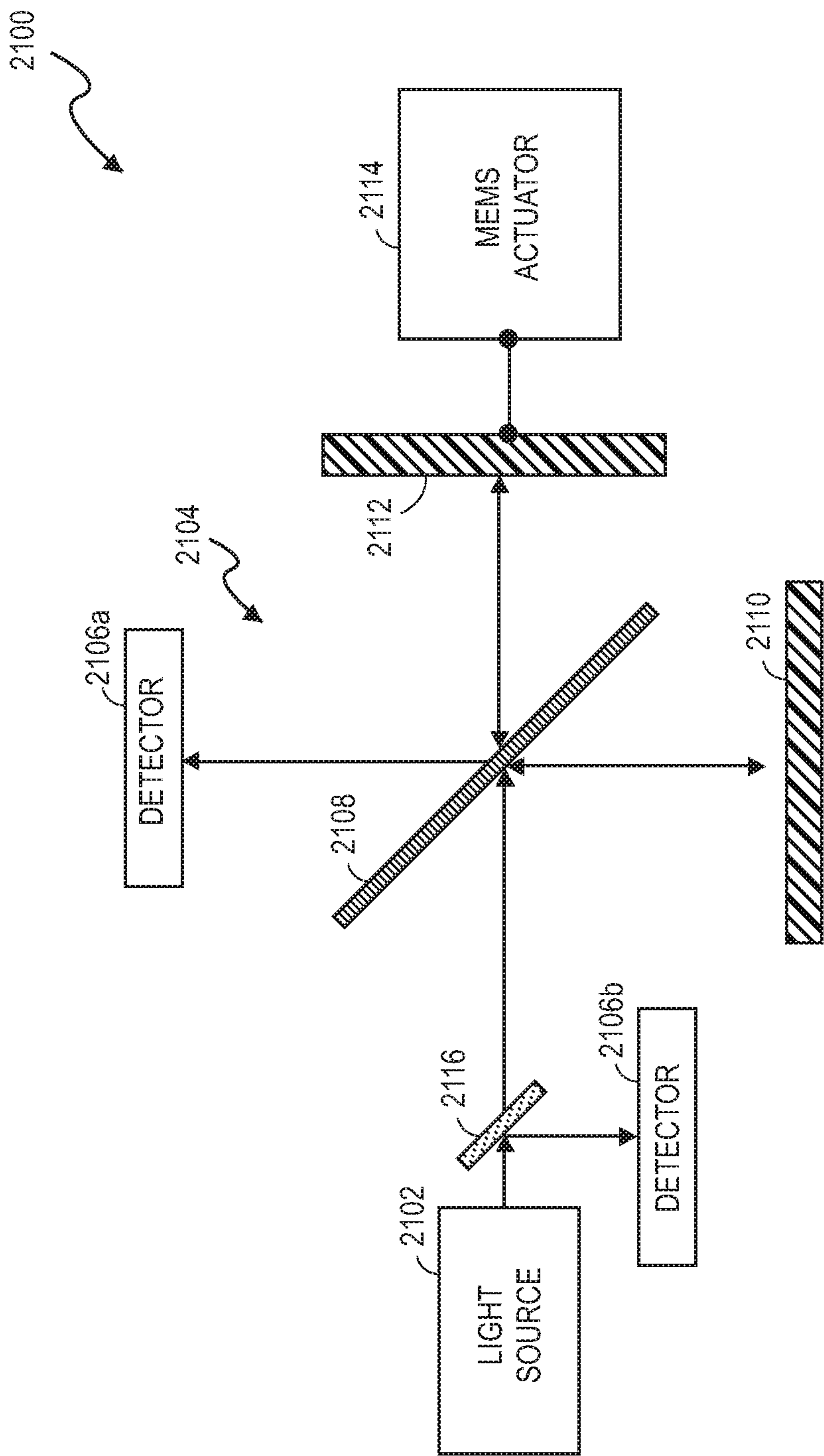


FIG. 21

SELF-REFERENCED SPECTROMETER**PRIORITY CLAIM**

This application claims priority to and the benefit of Provisional Application No. 62/651,016, filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on Mar. 30, 2018, the entire content of which is incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth below in its entirety and for all applicable purposes.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The technology discussed below relates generally to spectrometers, and in particular to spectrometers for simultaneously capturing background or reference spectral density and sample spectral density.

BACKGROUND

Fourier Transform-Infrared (FT-IR) spectrometers measure a single-beam spectrum (power spectral density (PSD)), where the intensity of the single-beam spectrum is proportional to the power of the radiation reaching the detector. In order to measure the absorbance of a sample, the background spectrum (i.e., the single-beam spectrum in absence of a sample) should first be measured to compensate for the instrument transfer function. The single-beam spectrum of light transmitted or reflected from the sample may then be measured. The absorbance of the sample may be calculated from the transmittance or reflectance of the sample. For example, the absorbance of the sample may be calculated as the ratio of the spectrum of transmitted light or reflected light from the sample to the background spectrum.

For transmission measurements, the background spectrum may be obtained by measuring the spectrum of the beam at the input of the instrument without placing any material in the light path (e.g., an empty cuvette). For reflection measurements, the background spectrum may be obtained by placing a reference material with nearly flat spectral response across the spectral range of interest with greater than 95% reflectance instead of the sample. Background measurements should generally be performed under the same conditions at which the measurement of the sample is conducted.

To continue measuring accurate absorbance spectra, background measurements should be done frequently or even before each sample measurement, which consumes additional time. Spectroscopists have studied the frequency of background measurements and how the spectrum changes with temperature and time to attempt to derive models to simulate these effects and to determine how to compensate for them. Additional enhancements in spectrometer designs are desired to reduce the time in the measurement process, while maintaining an online reference/background measurement to compensate for any PSD drift effects.

SUMMARY

The following presents a simplified summary of one or more aspects of the present disclosure, in order to provide a basic understanding of such aspects. This summary is not an extensive overview of all contemplated features of the disclosure, and is intended neither to identify key or critical elements of all aspects of the disclosure nor to delineate the scope of any or all aspects of the disclosure. Its sole purpose is to present some concepts of one or more aspects of the

disclosure in a simplified form as a prelude to the more detailed description that is presented later.

Various aspects of the disclosure provide simultaneous measurement of a background or reference spectral density and a sample or other spectral density to maintain an online background/reference measurement, compensate for any PSD drift effects and minimize the time required to obtain the background/reference measurement and perform any PSD compensation. In an aspect of the disclosure, a self-referenced spectrometer includes an interferometer optically coupled to receive an input beam and to direct the input beam along a first optical path to produce a first interfering beam and a second optical path to produce a second interfering beam, where the first and second interfering beams are produced prior to an output of the interferometer. The spectrometer further includes a detector optically coupled to simultaneously detect a first interference signal produced from the first interfering beam and a second interference signal produced from the second interfering beam, and a processor coupled to the detector and configured to process the first interference signal and the second interference signal and to utilize the second interference signal as a reference signal in processing the first interference signal.

In an example, the interferometer may include a Michelson interferometer, a Mach-Zehnder interferometer, or a Fabry-Perot interferometer, which may be implemented within a Micro-Electro-Mechanical-Systems (MEMS) chip including a moveable mirror actuated by a MEMS actuator. In some examples, the interferometer may include retro-reflectors and two outputs, where one output passes through a sample arm forming the first optical path and another output passes through a reference arm forming the second optical path. In other examples, a coupler may be implemented near an input of a Michelson interferometer to direct the reflected second interfering beam onto an input port corresponding to the second optical path. In still other examples, a sample-under-test (SUT) and a diffuse reflectance reference material or other reflection surface may be simultaneously illuminated and the reflected light from the SUT and the reference may be directed to the interferometer. In further examples, the second optical path may include a reference material with reference absorption peaks or a narrowband optical filter for continuous wavelength correction of the first interference signal and/or online mirror positioning. In still further examples, each optical path may simultaneously measure a different spectral range or resolution.

These and other aspects of the invention will become more fully understood upon a review of the detailed description, which follows. Other aspects, features, and embodiments of the present invention will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art, upon reviewing the following description of specific, exemplary embodiments of the present invention in conjunction with the accompanying figures. While features of the present invention may be discussed relative to certain embodiments and figures below, all embodiments of the present invention can include one or more of the advantageous features discussed herein. In other words, while one or more embodiments may be discussed as having certain advantageous features, one or more of such features may also be used in accordance with the various embodiments of the invention discussed herein. In similar fashion, while exemplary embodiments may be discussed below as device, system, or method embodiments it should

be understood that such exemplary embodiments can be implemented in various devices, systems, and methods.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagram illustrating an example of a self-referenced spectrometer including an interferometer configured to simultaneously measure a background or reference power spectral density (PSD) and a sample or other PSD.

FIG. 2 is a diagram illustrating an example of a self-referenced spectrometer based on a Michelson interferometer including retro-reflectors.

FIG. 3 is a diagram illustrating an example of a self-referenced spectrometer based on a Mach-Zehnder interferometer including retro-reflectors.

FIG. 4 is a diagram illustrating an example of a self-referenced spectrometer based on a Michelson interferometer including a coupler.

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating an example of a self-referenced spectrometer based on a Michelson interferometer and a splitter.

FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrating an example of a self-referenced spectrometer based on a Fabry-Perot interferometer and a splitter.

FIG. 7 is a diagram illustrating an example of a side view of a Micro-Electro-Mechanical-Systems (MEMS) chip including a self-referenced spectrometer and an integrated diffuse reflection reference material.

FIG. 8 is a diagram illustrating an example of a side view of a MEMS chip including a self-referenced spectrometer and a wafer-level bonded diffuse reflection reference material.

FIG. 9 is a diagram illustrating an example of a self-referenced spectrometer including a reference material or filter.

FIG. 10 is a diagram illustrating an example of a top view of a MEMS interferometer chip with an integrated liquid or gas reference material in a microfluidic channel.

FIG. 11 is a diagram illustrating an example of a self-referenced spectrometer based on a Michelson interferometer and including optical components designed to simultaneously illuminate a reference material and sample-under-test (SUT) and to direct the reflected light to the interferometer.

FIG. 12 is a diagram illustrating an example of a self-referenced spectrometer based on a Fabry-Perot interferometer and including optical components designed to simultaneously illuminate a reference material and sample-under-test (SUT) and to direct the reflected light to the interferometer.

FIGS. 13A and 13B are diagrams illustrating other examples of a self-referenced spectrometers including a single detector and optical components designed to simultaneously illuminate a reference material and sample-under-test (SUT) and to direct the reflected light to the interferometer.

FIG. 14 is a diagram illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer including a single detector and optical components designed to simultaneously illuminate a reference material and sample-under-test (SUT) and to direct the reflected light to the interferometer.

FIG. 15A is a diagram illustrating an example of a self-referenced spectrometer including optical components designed to simultaneously reflect light from a background source and a SUT.

FIG. 15B is a graph illustrating estimation of a background signal based on the reflected light from the background source and stored calibration measurements.

FIGS. 16A and 16B are diagrams illustrating other examples of a self-referenced spectrometer including optical components designed to simultaneously reflect light from a background source or reference material and a SUT.

FIG. 17 is a diagram illustrating an example of a self-referenced spectrometer based on a Michelson interferometer and including two light sources, each optimized for a different spectral range.

FIG. 18 is a diagram illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer based on a Michelson interferometer and including two light sources, each optimized for a different spectral range.

FIG. 19 is a diagram illustrating an example of a self-referenced spectrometer based on a Michelson interferometer and configured to simultaneously measure two different resolutions.

FIG. 20 is a diagram illustrating another example a self-referenced spectrometer based on a Michelson interferometer and configured to measure two different resolutions.

FIG. 21 is a diagram illustrating an example of a self-referenced spectrometer based on a Michelson interferometer and including a tap splitter at the input of the interferometer.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The detailed description set forth below in connection with the appended drawings is intended as a description of various configurations and is not intended to represent the only configurations in which the concepts described herein may be practiced. The detailed description includes specific details for the purpose of providing a thorough understanding of various concepts. However, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that these concepts may be practiced without these specific details. In some instances, well known structures and components are shown in block diagram form in order to avoid obscuring such concepts.

FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a self-referenced spectrometer 100 for simultaneously measuring a background or reference power spectral density (PSD) and a sample or other PSD. The spectrometer 100 includes a light source 102, an interferometer 104, a detector 106, and a processor 108. The light source 102 is configured to emit an input beam 110 and may include one or more wideband thermal radiation sources or a quantum source with an array of light emitting devices that cover the wavelength range of interest.

The interferometer 104 is optically coupled to receive the input beam 110 and to direct the input beam along one or more optical paths to produce two interfering beams 112a and 112b (e.g., interference patterns) at an output thereof. In some examples, the interfering beams 112a and 112b are produced within the interferometer 104 prior to the output thereof. One of the interfering beams 112a represents a sample or other spectrum, while the other interfering beam 112b represents a background or reference spectrum. Thus, each of the interfering beams 112a and 112b passes through a different respective medium (e.g., sample/other or background/reference) external to the interferometer 104. The interferometer 104 may include one or more Michelson interferometers, Mach-Zehnder (MZ) interferometers, and/or Fabry-Perot (FP) interferometers.

In addition, the interferometer 104 may be implemented on a Micro-Electro-Mechanical-Systems (MEMS) chip. As used herein, the term MEMS refers to the integration of

mechanical elements, sensors, actuators and electronics on a common silicon substrate through microfabrication technology. For example, the microelectronics are typically fabricated using an integrated circuit (IC) process, while the micromechanical components are fabricated using compatible micromachining processes that selectively etch away parts of the silicon wafer or add new structural layers to form the mechanical and electromechanical components. One example of a MEMS element is a micro-optical component having a dielectric or metallized surface working in a reflection or refraction mode. Other examples of MEMS elements include actuators, detector grooves and fiber grooves.

In various aspects of the present disclosure, the MEMS interferometer **104** may include one or more micro-optical components (e.g., one or more reflectors or mirrors) that may be moveably controlled by a MEMS actuator. In some examples, the MEMS interferometer **104** may be fabricated using a Deep Reactive Ion Etching (DRIE) process on a Silicon On Insulator (SOI) wafer in order to produce the micro-optical components and other MEMS elements that are able to process free-space optical beams propagating parallel to the SOI substrate.

The detector **106** is optically coupled to receive the interfering beams **112a** and **112b** from the interferometer **104** and to simultaneously detect a first interference signal **114a** produced from the first interfering beam **112a** and a second interference signal **114b** produced from the second interfering beam **112b**. For example, each of the interference signals **114a** and **114b** may correspond to interferograms.

The processor **108** is configured to receive the first and second interference signals **114a** and **114b** and to use the second interference signal **114b** as a reference signal in processing the first interference signal **114a**. For example, the processor **108** may be configured to apply a Fourier Transform to each of the interference signals **114a** and **114b** to obtain the respective spectrums, and then to use the spectrum obtained from the second interference signal **114b** in further processing of the spectrum obtained from the first interference signal **114a**. In some examples, the processor **108** may calculate the absorbance of a sample-under-test (SUT) as a ratio of the spectrum obtained from the first interference signal **114a** to the spectrum obtained from the second interference signal **114b**.

The processor **108** may be a single processing device or a plurality of processing devices. Such a processing device may be a microprocessor, micro-controller, digital signal processor, microcomputer, central processing unit, field programmable gate array, programmable logic device, logic circuitry, analog circuitry, digital circuitry, and/or any device that manipulates signals (analog and/or digital) based on hard coding of the circuitry and/or operational instructions. The processor **108** may have an associated memory and/or memory element, which may be a single memory device, a plurality of memory devices, and/or embedded circuitry of the processor. Such a memory device may be a read-only memory, random access memory, volatile memory, non-volatile memory, static memory, dynamic memory, flash memory, cache memory, and/or any device that stores digital information.

FIG. 2 is a diagram illustrating an example of a self-referenced spectrometer **200**. The spectrometer **200** includes a light source **202**, an interferometer **204**, detectors **206a** and **206b**, an electronics interface **210** and a digital signal processor (DSP) **208**. The light source **202** may correspond, for example, to the light source **102** shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the interferometer **204**, detectors **206a** and **206b**,

and DSP **208** may correspond to the interferometer **104**, detector **106**, and processor **108**, respectively, shown in FIG. 1.

The interferometer **204** is a Michelson interferometer fabricated on a MEMS chip that includes a beam splitter **212**, a fixed reflector **214**, a moveable reflector **216**, and a MEMS actuator **218** coupled to the moveable reflector **216**. The fixed reflector **214** and the moveable reflector **216** are each retro-reflectors. The beam splitter **212** may include, for example, an air-propagation based spatial splitter (e.g., a hollow waveguide splitter) or an air/silicon beam splitter (e.g., a beam splitter formed at an interface between silicon and air). The interferometer **204** includes two outputs **238** and **240**, each optically coupled to one of two optical paths within the interferometer **204** and each further optically coupled to a respective detector **206a** and **206b** external to the interferometer **204**. For example, a first optical path is formed between the beam splitter **212** and the first output **238**, which then passes through a sample **220** (e.g., SUT) at the first output **238** towards the first detector **206a**. A second optical path is formed between the beam splitter **212** and the second output **240**, which then passes through a reference **222** at the second output **240** towards the second detector **206b**.

In the example shown in FIG. 2, an input beam **224** from the light source **202** is split into two incident beams **226** and **228** by the beam splitter **212**. The fixed retro-reflector **214** is optically coupled to receive a first incident beam **226** and to reflect the first incident beam **226** towards the beam splitter **212** to produce a first reflected beam **230**. The moveable retro-reflector **216** is optically coupled to receive a second incident beam **228** and to reflect the second incident beam **228** towards the beam splitter **212** to produce a second reflected beam **232**. The moveable retro-reflector **216** is coupled to the MEMS actuator **218** to produce a desired optical path difference (OPD) between the first and second reflected beams **230** and **232**.

In one example, the MEMS actuator **218** is formed of a comb drive and spring. By applying a voltage to the comb drive, a potential difference results across the actuator **218**, which induces a capacitance therein, causing a driving force to be generated as well as a restoring force from the spring, thereby causing a displacement of moveable retro-reflector **216** to the desired position for reflection of the incident beam **228**. An OPD is then created between the reflected beams **230** and **232** that is substantially equal to twice the displacement of the moveable retro-reflector **216**.

The reflected beams **230** and **232** interfere at the beam splitter **212**, allowing the temporal coherence of the light to be measured at each different OPD produced by the moveable retro-reflector **216**. The beam splitter **212** is further optically coupled to split the interference beam resulting from interference between the first reflected beam **230** and the second reflected beam **232** to produce a first interfering beam **234** and a second interfering beam **236**. The beam splitter **212** is further optically coupled to direct the first interfering beam **234** along the first optical path (e.g., which may correspond to a sample arm of the interferometer **204**) and the second interfering beam **236** along the second optical path (e.g., which may correspond to a reference arm of the interferometer **204**).

The sample arm and the reference arm may each operate in either a transmission configuration or reflectance configuration (e.g., a diffuse reflectance configuration). In a transmission configuration, the interfering beam (e.g., beam **234** or **236**) propagates through the sample **220** or reference **222** towards the respective detector **206a** or **206b**. In a reflect-

tance configuration, the interfering beam (e.g., beam **234** or **236**) is reflected from the sample **220** or reference **222** to the respective detector **206a** or **206b**. For the reference arm, in the case of a transmission configuration, the reference **222** may be an empty cuvette, while in the case of a reflectance configuration, the reference **222** may include Spectralon or polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) standard reflectors. For the sample arm, in the case of a transmission configuration, the interfering beam **234** may propagate through the sample **220**, while in the case of a reflectance configuration, the interfering beam **234** may be reflected from the sample **220** towards the detector **206a**.

Each detector **206a** and **206b** is optically coupled to receive the respective interfering beam **234** and **236** (e.g., after propagation through or reflection from the sample **220**/reference **222**) and to detect a respective interference signal **242** and **244**. The electronics interface **210** is coupled to the detectors **206a** and **206b** to receive the interference signals **242** and **244** and is configured to process each of the interference signals **242** and **244** to extract the respective interferograms therefrom. The DSP **208** is coupled to the electronics interface **210** to receive the interferograms and is configured to calculate a sample absorbance A_s as follows:

$$A_s = -\log_{10}\left(\frac{FFT|I_{d1}|}{FFT|I_{d2}|}\right) \quad (\text{Equation 1})$$

where I_{d1} is the detected interferogram signal from detector **206a** and I_{d2} is the detected interferogram signal from detector **206b**. It should be understood that any differences between the two detectors **206a** and **206b** that may affect the accuracy of the sample absorbance may be calibrated and compensated in the final calculation.

FIG. 3 is a diagram illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer **300**. The spectrometer **300** includes a light source **302**, an interferometer **304** and detectors **306a** and **306b**. The light source **302** may correspond, for example, to the light source **102** shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the interferometer **304** and detectors **306a** and **306b** may correspond to the interferometer **104** and detector **106**, respectively, shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the spectrometer **300** may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The interferometer **304** is a MZ interferometer fabricated on a MEMS chip that includes a first beam splitter **308**, a moveable reflector **310**, a MEMS actuator **312** coupled to the moveable reflector **310**, a first flat mirror **314**, a second flat mirror **316**, a fixed reflector **318**, and a second beam splitter **320**. The fixed reflector **318** and the moveable reflector **310** are each retro-reflectors. The interferometer **304** includes two outputs, one passing through a sample **322** (e.g., a SUT) towards a detector **306a** at a first output and another passing through a reference **324** towards a detector **306b** at a second output. A first optical path is formed between the second beam splitter **320** and a first output of the interferometer **304** at the sample **322**, whereas a second optical path is formed between the second beam splitter **320** and a second output of the interferometer **304** at the reference **324**.

In the example shown in FIG. 3, an input beam **326** from the light source **302** is split into two incident beams **328** and **330** by the first beam splitter **308**. The moveable retro-reflector **310** is optically coupled to receive a first incident beam **328** and to reflect the first incident beam **328** towards the second beam splitter **320** via the first flat mirror **314** to

produce a first reflected beam **332**. The second flat mirror **316** is optically coupled to direct a second incident beam **330** towards the fixed retro-reflector **318** for reflection thereof towards the second beam splitter **320** to produce a second reflected beam **334**. The moveable retro-reflector **310** is coupled to the MEMS actuator **312** to produce a desired optical path difference (OPD) between the first and second reflected beams **332** and **334**.

The reflected beams **332** and **334** interfere at the second beam splitter **320**, allowing the temporal coherence of the light to be measured at each different OPD produced by the moveable retro-reflector **310**. The second beam splitter **320** is further optically coupled to split the interference beam resulting from interference between the first reflected beam **332** and the second reflected beam **334** to produce a first interfering beam **336** and a second interfering beam **338**. The second beam splitter **320** is further optically coupled to direct the first interfering beam **336** along the first optical path and the second interfering beam **338** along the second optical path.

Each detector **306a** and **306b** is optically coupled to receive the respective interfering beam **336** and **338** (e.g., after propagation through or reflection from the sample **322**/reference **324**) and to detect a respective interference signal. A processor (not shown) may then utilize the interference signal detected by detector **306b** as a reference signal in processing the interference signal detected by detector **306a**, as described above.

FIG. 4 is a diagram illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer **400**. The spectrometer **400** includes a light source **402**, interferometer **404**, and two detectors **406a** and **406b**. The light source **402** may correspond, for example, to the light source **102** shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the interferometer **404** and detectors **406a** and **406b** may correspond to the interferometer **104** and detector **106**, respectively, shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the spectrometer **400** may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The interferometer **404** is a Michelson interferometer fabricated on a MEMS chip that includes a beam splitter **408**, a fixed reflector **410** (e.g., a fixed mirror), a moveable reflector **412** (e.g., a moveable mirror), a MEMS actuator **414** coupled to the moveable reflector **412**, and a coupler **420**. The fixed reflector **410** and the moveable reflector **412** are each flat mirrors. The coupler **420** is positioned at an input of the interferometer **404**. The interferometer **404** includes two outputs, one passing through a sample **416** (e.g., a SUT) towards a detector **406a** and another passing back through the coupler **420** through a reference **418** towards a detector **406b**. A first optical path is formed between the beam splitter **408** and a first output of the interferometer **404** at the sample **416**, whereas a second optical path is formed between the beam splitter **408** and a second output of the interferometer **404** at the coupler **420**/reference **418**.

In the example shown in FIG. 4, an input beam from the light source **402** is coupled by the coupler **420** to the beam splitter **408**, where the input beam is split into two incident beams. The fixed mirror **410** is optically coupled to receive one of the incident beams and to reflect the received incident beam back towards the beam splitter **408**. The moveable mirror **412** is optically coupled to receive the other incident beam from the beam splitter **408** and to reflect the received incident beam back towards the beam splitter **408**. The moveable mirror **412** is coupled to the MEMS actuator **414** to produce a desired optical path difference (OPD) between the beams reflected back to the beam splitter **408**.

The reflected beams interfere at the beam splitter **408**, allowing the temporal coherence of the light to be measured at each different OPD produced by the moveable mirror **412**. The beam splitter **408** is further optically coupled to split the interference beam resulting from interference between the reflected beam to produce a two interfering beams, each directed along one of the first optical path or the second optical path. Each detector **406a** and **406b** is optically coupled to receive a respective one of the two interfering beams (e.g., after propagation through or reflection from the sample **416**/reference **418**) and to detect a respective interference signal. A processor (not shown) may then utilize the interference signal detected by detector **406b** as a reference signal in processing the interference signal detected by detector **406a**, as described above.

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer. The spectrometer **500** includes a light source **502**, interferometer **504**, and two detectors **506a** and **506b**. The light source **502** may correspond, for example, to the light source **102** shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the interferometer **504** and detectors **506a** and **506b** may correspond to the interferometer **104** and detector **106**, respectively, shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the spectrometer **500** may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The interferometer **504** is a Michelson interferometer fabricated on a MEMS chip that includes a beam splitter **508**, a fixed reflector **510** (e.g., a fixed mirror), a moveable reflector **512** (e.g., a moveable mirror), and a MEMS actuator **514** coupled to the moveable reflector **512**. The fixed reflector **510** and the moveable reflector **512** are each flat mirrors. In the example shown in FIG. 5, the interferometer **504** includes a single output. The spectrometer **500** further includes an additional beam splitter **516** optically coupled to receive the output of the interferometer **504** (e.g., an interfering beam) and to split the output into the two interfering beams that may then each be directed towards one of a sample **518** or a reference **520**. Each detector **506a** and **506b** is optically coupled to receive a respective one of the two interfering beams (e.g., after propagation through or reflection from the sample **518**/reference **520**) and to detect a respective interference signal. A processor (not shown) may then utilize the interference signal detected by detector **506b** as a reference signal in processing the interference signal detected by detector **506a**, as described above.

FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer. The spectrometer **600** includes a light source **602**, interferometer **604**, and two detectors **606a** and **606b**. The light source **602** may correspond, for example, to the light source **102** shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the interferometer **604** and detectors **606a** and **606b** may correspond to the interferometer **104** and detector **106**, respectively, shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the spectrometer **600** may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The interferometer **604** is a FP interferometer fabricated on a MEMS chip that includes a tunable FP filter **608** coupled to a MEMS actuator **610**. The tunable FP filter **608** includes two slabs, one of which is coupled to the MEMS actuator **610**. In an exemplary operation, the input beam from the light source **602** is transmitted through the top slab of the FP tunable filter **608** and enters a FP air cavity between the slabs, where the input beam is reflected multiple times off each of the interior reflecting surfaces of the slabs. The MEMS actuator **610** causes a displacement of the bottom slab, thus varying the width of the cavity, resulting in multiple offset beams that interfere with one another

inside the FP air cavity. Part of the reflected light (interfering beam) is transmitted through the bottom slab each time the light reaches the slab, and is output by the interferometer **604**.

In the example shown in FIG. 6, the interferometer **604** includes a single output. The spectrometer **600** further includes an additional beam splitter **612** optically coupled to receive the output of the interferometer **604** (e.g., an interfering beam) and to split the output into the two interfering beams that may then each be directed towards one of a sample **614** or a reference **616**. Each detector **606a** and **606b** is optically coupled to receive a respective one of the two interfering beams (e.g., after propagation through or reflection from the sample **614**/reference **616**) and to detect a respective interference signal. A processor (not shown) may then utilize the interference signal detected by detector **606b** as a reference signal in processing the interference signal detected by detector **606a**, as described above.

FIG. 7 is a diagram illustrating an example of a side view of a Micro-Electro-Mechanical-Systems (MEMS) chip **700** including various components of a self-referenced spectrometer. The MEMS chip **700** may be fabricated using a deep etching technology, such as Deep Reactive Ion Etching (DRIE), in a silicon-on-insulator (SOI) wafer **702** that includes a device layer **708**, a handle layer **704**, and a buried oxide (BOX) layer **706** sandwiched between the device layer **708** and the handle layer **704**. Various components of the MEMS interferometer, such as a beam splitter **712**, and other micro-optical components (e.g., mirrors, a MEMS actuator, etc.) may be defined using a single lithographic step and etched in the device layer **708** using a highly anisotropic process until the etch stop (BOX) layer **706** is reached. Any moveable parts, such as a moveable reflector and the MEMS actuator may be released by selectively removing the BOX layer **706** underneath the moveable parts. The MEMS chip **700** may further be wafer-level bonded to another substrate **710**, such as a package.

The MEMS chip **700** may further include a diffuse reflection surface **714** forming the reference material for the MEMS interferometer and an integrated reflector **716**, each fabricated monolithically within the MEMS chip. In the example shown in FIG. 7, the diffuse reflection surface **714** may include disordered silicon (e.g., black silicon). Black silicon is a needle-shaped surface structure, in which the surface of the structure includes a plurality of needles made of single-crystal silicon. In some examples, the needle diameters may be smaller than 1 micrometer and the needle heights may be larger than 10 micrometers, with a random variation of these parameters across the black silicon area. The needles may be formed in various shapes, such as spikes, columns, cones and pyramids, by etching without the use of a photolithographic mask. The diffuse reflection surface **714** may be coated with a metal to function as a high flux reference or with a dielectric to function as a low flux reference.

Using, for example, any of the self-referenced spectrometer configurations shown in FIGS. 2-6 above, an interfering beam from the beam splitter **712** may be directed towards the diffuse reflection surface **714**, and the output thereof may be reflected by the integrated reflector **716** (e.g., which may be a curved reflector) towards a detector chip **718**. The resulting interference signal detected by the detector chip **718** may be used as a reference signal in processing a sample interference signal, as described above.

FIG. 8 is a diagram illustrating an example of a side view of a MEMS chip **800** including various components of a self-referenced spectrometer. The MEMS chip **800** may be

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fabricated using a deep etching technology, such as Deep Reactive Ion Etching (DRIE), in a silicon-on-insulator (SOI) wafer **802** that includes a device layer **808**, a handle layer **804**, and a buried oxide (BOX) layer **806** sandwiched between the device layer **808** and the handle layer **804**. Various components of the MEMS interferometer, such as a beam splitter **812**, and other micro-optical components (e.g., mirrors, a MEMS actuator, etc.) may be defined using a single lithographic step and etched in the device layer **808** using a highly anisotropic process until the etch stop (BOX) layer **806** is reached. Any moveable parts, such as a moveable reflector and the MEMS actuator may be released by selectively removing the BOX layer **806** underneath the moveable parts. The MEMS chip **800** may further be wafer-level bonded to another substrate **810**, such as a package.

The MEMS chip **800** may further include an integrated reflector **816** fabricated monolithically within the MEMS chip. In addition, a diffuse reflection surface **814** may be wafer-level bonded to the MEMS chip **700**. In the example shown in FIG. 8, the diffuse reflection surface **814** may include a sandblasted surface (e.g., glass). The diffuse reflection surface **814** may be coated with a metal to function as a high flux reference or with a dielectric to function as a low flux reference.

Using, for example, any of the self-referenced spectrometer configurations shown in FIGS. 2-6 above, an interfering beam from the beam splitter **812** may be directed towards the diffuse reflection surface **814** via the integrated reflector **816** (e.g., which may be a curved reflector), and the reflected beam from the diffuse reflection surface **814** may be reflected towards a detector chip **818**. The resulting interference signal detected by the detector chip **818** may be used as a reference signal in processing a sample interference signal, as described above.

FIG. 9 is a diagram illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer **900**. The spectrometer **900** is similar to the spectrometer illustrated in FIG. 2 in that the spectrometer **900** includes a light source **902**, a Michelson interferometer **904** (including a beam splitter **908**, a fixed retro-reflector **910**, a moveable retro-reflector **912** and a MEMS actuator **914** coupled to the moveable retro-reflector **912**), and two detectors **906a** and **906b**. The interferometer **904** further includes two outputs, one passing directly towards a detector **906a** and another passing through a reference material or optical filter **916** at the output towards a detector **906b**. Thus, a first optical path is formed between the beam splitter **908** and the first output of the interferometer **904** towards the first detector **906a**, whereas a second optical path is formed between the beam splitter **908** and the second output of the interferometer **904** at the reference material or optical filter **916**.

In some examples, the interference signal from the reference material or optical filter **916** with reference absorption peaks detected by the detector **906b** may be utilized by a processor (not shown) for continuous wavelength correction of the interference signal detected by the detector **906a**. In addition, in examples in which a narrowband optical filter **916** is incorporated into the spectrometer **900**, the narrowband optical filter **916** may also be utilized for online mirror positioning of the moveable reflector **912**. For example, the detected interferogram from the detector **906b** may be in the form of a sinusoidal signal of a period corresponding to the central wavelength λ_o of the filter **916**. More particularly, one cycle of the detected interferogram signal may correspond to an OPD (equal to λ_o) between the reflected beams reflected back to the splitter **908** from the fixed retro-

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reflector **910** and the moveable retro-reflector **912** resulting from the displacement of the moveable retro-reflector **912**.

FIG. 10 is a diagram illustrating an example of a top view of a MEMS interferometer chip **1000**. The MEMS interferometer chip **1000** may be fabricated, for example, using DRIE in a silicon-on-insulator (SOI) wafer. The MEMS interferometer chip **1000** includes a fixed mirror **1002**, a moveable mirror **1004** coupled to a MEMS actuator **1006**, a beam splitter **1008** formed at the interface between silicon and air, and a microfluidic channel or connector **1010** integrated within the MEMS interferometer chip **1000**. The microfluidic channel **1010** may include a reference material **1012** formed of a liquid or gas. With knowledge of the reference wavelength position of certain absorption peaks, the wavelength axis of the output of the MEMS interferometer chip **1000** may be corrected.

In this example, the interfering beam produced at the output of the interferometer includes a combined interfering beam including both a first interfering beam produced as a result of passing through the mirrors **1002** and **1004** and beam splitter **1008** (e.g., the first optical path) and a second interfering beam produced as a result of passing through the mirrors **1002/1004**, beam splitter **1008**, and reference material **1012** (e.g., the second optical path). Thus, a single detector may be utilized to detect a single interference signal that includes both the first interference signal (e.g., the sample or other signal) and the second interference signal (e.g., the reference signal). In the example in FIG. 10, the light is transmitted through the reference liquid or gas at the output of the interferometer. However, in other examples, the light may be transmitted through the reference liquid or gas at the input of the interferometer.

FIG. 11 is a diagram illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer **1100**. The spectrometer **1100** includes a light source **1102**, interferometer **1104**, and two detectors **1106a** and **1106b**. The light source **1102** may correspond, for example, to the light source **102** shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the interferometer **1104** and detectors **1106a** and **1106b** may correspond to the interferometer **104** and detector **106**, respectively, shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the spectrometer **1100** may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The spectrometer **1100** further includes optical components designed to simultaneously illuminate a sample (e.g., a SUT) **1110** and a reference (e.g., a diffuse reflectance surface) **1112**. In the example shown in FIG. 11, the spectrometer **1100** includes a splitter **1108** optically coupled to split an original source beam **1105** emitted from the light source **1102** into a first source beam reflected by a first reflective surface **1114** towards the sample **1110** and a second source beam reflected by a second reflective surface **1116** towards the reference **1112**. Light reflected from the sample **1110** and the reference **1112** may be directed towards a respective input of the interferometer **1104** as first and second input beams **1136** and **1138**, respectively, via, for example, one or more waveguides **1128a** and **1128b** and/or other additional optical components **1118**. For example, the additional optical components **1118** may include a first flat mirror **1130** optically coupled to receive the first input beam **1136** reflected from the sample **1110** and a second flat mirror **1132** optically coupled to receive the second input beam **1138** reflected from the reference **1112**. The first and second input beams reflected from the flat mirrors **1130** and **1132** may then be directed towards a reflective element **1134** optically coupled to direct the first and second input beams **1136** and **1138**, respectively, into the interferometer **1104**.

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The interferometer **1104** is a Michelson interferometer that includes a beam splitter **1120**, a fixed reflector **1122** (e.g., a fixed mirror), a moveable reflector **1124** (e.g., a moveable mirror), and a MEMS actuator **1126** coupled to the moveable reflector **1124**. The fixed mirror **1122** and the moveable mirror **1124** are each flat mirrors. In the example shown in FIG. 11, the first and second input beams **1136** and **1138**, respectively, are each input to the beam splitter **1120**, which is optically coupled to split each of the input beams into respective incident beams. For example, the beam splitter **1120** may split the first input beam **1136** reflected from sample **1110** into a first incident beam **1140** and a second incident beam **1142** and may direct the first incident beam **1140** towards the fixed mirror **1122** and the second incident beam **1142** towards the moveable mirror **1124**. In addition, the beam splitter **1120** may split the second input beam **1138** reflected from the reference **1112** into a third incident beam **1144** and a fourth incident beam **1146** and direct the third incident beam **1144** towards the fixed mirror **1122** and the fourth incident beam **1146** towards the moveable mirror **1124**.

The fixed mirror **1122** is optically coupled to reflect the received first and third incident beams **1140** and **1144**, respectively back towards the beam splitter **1120** as first and third reflected beams **1148** and **1152**, respectively. The moveable mirror **1124** is optically coupled to reflect the received second and fourth incident beams **1142** and **1146**, respectively, back towards the beam splitter **1120** as second and fourth reflected beams **1150** and **1154**, respectively. The moveable mirror **1124** is coupled to the MEMS actuator **1126** to produce a desired respective optical path difference (OPD) between the first and third reflected beams and the second and fourth reflected beams.

The first and second reflected beams **1148** and **1150**, respectively, interfere at the beam splitter **1120** to produce a first interfering beam **1156**, whereas the third and fourth reflected beams **1152** and **1154**, respectively, interfere at the beam splitter **1120** to produce a second interfering beam **1158**. The beam splitter **1120** is further optically coupled to direct the first interfering beam **1156** towards detector **1106a** to detect a first interference signal and the second interfering beam **1158** towards detector **1106b** to detect a second interference signal. A processor (not shown) may then utilize the interference signal detected by detector **1106b** as a reference signal in processing the interference signal detected by detector **1106a**, as described above. In this example, a first optical path is formed between a first input of the interferometer **1104** optically coupled to receive the first input beam **1136** reflected from the sample **1110** and a first output thereof directing the first interfering beam **1156** towards the first detector **1106a**, whereas a second optical path is formed between a second input of the interferometer **1104** optically coupled to receive the second input beam **1138** reflected from the reference **1112** and a second output thereof directing the second interfering beam **1158** towards the second detector **1106b**.

In some examples, the interferometer **1104**, splitter, **1108**, reflective surfaces **1114** and **1116** and additional optical components **1118** may be fabricated monolithically on a MEMS chip. In addition, it should be understood that other optical components may be utilized to direct the original input beam towards the sample **1110** and the reference **1112** and to direct the reflected input beams from the sample **1110** and the reference **1112** into the interferometer **1104**.

FIG. 12 is a diagram illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer. The spectrometer **1200** includes a light source **1202**, interferometer **1204**, and two

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detectors **1206a** and **1206b**. The light source **1202** may correspond, for example, to the light source **102** shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the interferometer **1204** and detectors **1206a** and **1206b** may correspond to the interferometer **104** and detector **106**, respectively, shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the spectrometer **1200** may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The spectrometer **1200** is configured to simultaneously illuminate a sample (e.g., a SUT) **1210** and a reference (e.g., a diffuse reflectance surface) **1212**. In the example shown in FIG. 12, a source beam **1235** output from the light source **1202** is directed towards both the sample **1210** and the reference **1212**. Light reflected from the sample **1210** and the reference **1212** may be directed towards a respective input of the interferometer **1204** as input beams **1236** and **1238**, respectively, via, for example, additional optical components **1218**. For example, the additional optical components **1218** may include a first flat mirror **1230** optically coupled to receive the first input beam reflected from the sample **1210** and a second flat mirror **1232** optically coupled to receive the second input beam reflected from the reference **1212**. The first and second input beams reflected from the flat mirrors **1230** and **1232** may then be directed towards a reflective element **1234** optically coupled to direct the first and second input beams **1236** and **1238**, respectively, into the interferometer **1204**.

The interferometer **1204** is a FP interferometer that includes a tunable FP filter **1220** coupled to a MEMS actuator **1222**. The tunable FP filter **1220** includes two slabs, one of which is coupled to the MEMS actuator **1222**. In an exemplary operation, the first and second input beams **1236** and **1238**, respectively, reflected from the sample **1210** and the reference **1212** are transmitted through the top slab of the FP tunable filter **1220** and enter a FP air cavity between the slabs, where the input beams are reflected multiple times off each of the interior reflecting surfaces of the slabs. The MEMS actuator **1222** causes a displacement of the bottom slab, thus varying the width of the cavity, resulting in multiple offset beams that interfere with one another inside the FP air cavity. Part of the reflected light associated with each of a first interfering beam **1240** and a second interfering beam **1242** is transmitted through the bottom slab each time the light reaches the slab towards the respective detectors **1206a** and **1206b**.

A processor (not shown) may then utilize the interference signal detected by detector **1206b** as a reference signal in processing the interference signal detected by detector **1206a**, as described above. In this example, a first optical path is formed between a first input of the interferometer **1204** optically coupled to receive the input beam **1236** reflected from the sample **1210** and a first output of the interferometer **1204** coupled to provide the first interfering beam **1240** to the first detector **1206a**, whereas a second optical path is formed between a second input of the interferometer **1204** optically coupled to receive the input beam **1238** reflected from the reference **1212** and a second output of the interferometer **1204** coupled to provide the second interfering beam **1242** to the second detector **1206b**.

It should be understood that the optical components illustrated in FIG. 12 are merely exemplary and other optical components (e.g., such as the optical components shown in FIG. 11) may be utilized to direct the light from the light source **1202** to the sample **1210** and the reference **1212** and to direct the reflected input beams from the sample **1210** and the reference **1212** into the interferometer **1204**.

FIGS. 13A and 13B are diagrams illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer **1300**. The spec-

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trometer **1300** includes a light source **1302**, interferometer **1304**, and a single detector **1306**. The light source **1302** may correspond, for example, to the light source **102** shown in FIG. **1**. In addition, the interferometer **1304** and the detector **1306** may correspond to the interferometer **104** and detector **106**, respectively, shown in FIG. **1**. In addition, the spectrometer **1300** may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The spectrometer **1300** further includes optical components designed to simultaneously illuminate a sample (e.g., a SUT) **1310** and a reference (e.g., a diffuse reflectance surface) **1312**. In the example shown in FIG. **13**, the spectrometer **1300** includes a splitter **1308** optically coupled to split an original source beam **1305** from the light source **1302** into a first source beam reflected by a first reflective surface **1314** towards the sample **1310** and a second source beam reflected by a second reflective surface **1316** towards the reference **1312**. Light reflected from the sample **1310** and the reference **1312** as first and second input beams **1336** and **1338**, respectively, may be directed towards a respective input of the interferometer **1304** via, for example, one or more waveguides and/or other additional optical components **1318**, as described above in connection with FIG. **11**.

In the example shown in FIG. **13A**, the interferometer **1304** is a Michelson interferometer that includes a beam splitter **1320**, fixed reflectors **1322a** and **1322b** (e.g., fixed mirrors), a moveable reflector **1324** (e.g., a moveable mirror), a MEMS actuator **1326** coupled to the moveable reflector **1324**, and a focusing reflector **1328** (e.g., a curved reflector). The fixed mirrors **1322a** and **1322b** and the moveable mirror **1324** are each flat mirrors. In the example shown in FIG. **13**, the first and second input beams **1336** and **1338** reflected from the sample **1310** and the reference **1312** are each input to the beam splitter **1320**, which is optically coupled to split each of the input beams into respective incident beams. For example, the beam splitter **1320** may split the first input beam reflected from sample **1310** into a first incident beam that is directed towards the first fixed mirror **1322a** and a second incident beam that is directed towards the moveable mirror **1324**. The beam splitter **1320** may further split the second input beam reflected from the reference **1312** into a third incident beam that is directed towards the second fixed mirror **1322b** and a fourth incident beam that is directed towards the moveable mirror **1324**.

The first and second fixed mirrors **1322a** and **1322b** are each optically coupled to reflect the respective received first and third incident beams back towards the beam splitter **1320** as first and third reflected beams, respectively. The moveable mirror **1324** is optically coupled to reflect the received second and fourth incident beams back towards the beam splitter **1320** as second and fourth reflected beams. The moveable mirror **1324** is coupled to the MEMS actuator **1326** to produce a desired respective optical path difference (OPD) between the first and third reflected beams and the second and fourth reflected beams.

The first and second reflected beams interfere at the beam splitter **1320** to produce a first interfering beam **1340**, whereas the third and fourth reflected beams interfere at the beam splitter **1320** to produce a second interfering beam **1342**. The beam splitter **1320** is further optically coupled to direct the first and second interfering beams **1340** and **1342**, respectively, towards the focusing reflector **1328** that focuses each of the first and second interfering beams **1340** and **1342**, respectively, onto the single detector **1306** to detect a combined interference signal including both a first interfering signal produced from the first interfering beam and a second interference signal produced from the second

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interfering beam. In this example, a first optical path is formed between a first input of the interferometer **1304** optically coupled to receive the first input beam reflected from the sample **1310** and the single output of the interferometer **1304** at the focusing reflector **1328**, whereas a second optical path is formed between a second input of the interferometer **1304** optically coupled to receive the second input beam reflected from the reference **1112** and the single output of the interferometer **1304** at the focusing reflector **1328**.

To use a single detector **1306**, a sample interferogram (as shown in FIG. **13A**) obtained from the first interference signal and a reference interferogram (as also shown in FIG. **13A**) obtained from the second interference signal are spatially separated by shifting one of the fixed mirrors relative to the other. In the example shown in FIG. **13A**, the first fixed mirror **1322a** within the sample optical path is spatially offset from the second fixed mirror **1322b** in the reference optical path (e.g., the first and second mirrors are spatially offset from one another with respect to the beam splitter **1320**) by a distance d_o corresponding to a target resolution within a predetermine margin in order to avoid cross-coupling between the first interfering signal and the second interfering signal. Consequently, the two interferograms (e.g., sample and reference) are also shifted from one another by a distance d_o .

In this example, the sample absorbance A_s may be extracted from the measured combined interferogram I_d as follows:

$$A_s = -\log_{10}\left(\frac{FFT|I_d \times W_s|}{FFT|I_d \times W_R|}\right) \quad (\text{Equation 2})$$

where W_s and W_R are the window functions to detect the sample interferogram and the reference interferogram, respectively. In some examples, W_s and W_R are shifted versions of the same window function W of mirror displacement x of the moveable mirror **1324**:

$$W_s = W\left(x + \frac{d_o}{2}\right), W_R = W\left(x - \frac{d_o}{2}\right). \quad (\text{Equation 3})$$

It should be understood that in some examples, the interferometer **1304** may include a single fixed mirror and two moveable mirrors that are spatially offset from one another to produce the same combined interferogram that may be processed as described above.

In the example shown in FIG. **13B**, instead of including two fixed mirrors **1322a** and **1322b**, a single fixed mirror **1322** is utilized, together with a thin film FP slab **1330**. The FP slab **1330** is shown implemented within the second optical path (e.g., corresponding to a reference optical path) before the beam splitter **1320**. The FP slab **1330** has a thickness d_o , and therefore, produces multiple instances of reference light (e.g., the second input beam) delayed from one another by an amount equal to $2d_o$. This results in two instances of the reference interferogram (as shown in FIG. **13B**) with power ratios of α and β with respect to the reference light spaced apart by $2d_o$, having a main instance (burst) aligned with the sample interferogram. A processor (not shown) may then extract the reference power spectral density (PSD) from the right half of the interferogram, and utilize the reference PSD to extract the sample PSD from the

left half of the interferogram (which includes a summation of both the sample interferogram and the β part of the reference interferogram).

FIG. 14 is a diagram illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer 1400. The spectrometer 1400 includes a light source 1402, interferometer 1404, and a single detector 1406. The light source 1402 may correspond, for example, to the light source 102 shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the interferometer 1404 and the detector 1406 may correspond to the interferometer 104 and detector 106, respectively, shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the spectrometer 1400 may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The spectrometer 1400 further includes optical components designed to simultaneously illuminate a sample (e.g., a SUT) 1410 and a reference (e.g., a diffuse reflectance surface) 1412. In the example shown in FIG. 14, the spectrometer 1400 includes a splitter 1408 optically coupled to split an original source beam from the light source 1402 into a first source beam reflected by a first reflective surface 1414 towards the sample 1410 and a second source beam reflected by a second reflective surface 1416 towards the reference 1412. Light reflected from the sample 1410 and the reference 1412 may be directed towards a respective input of the interferometer 1404 via, for example, one or more waveguides and/or other additional optical components 1418, as described above in connection with FIG. 11.

In the example shown in FIG. 14A, the interferometer 1404 is a FP interferometer including a tunable FP filter 1420 and a focusing lens 1430. The tunable FP filter 1420 includes a moveable slab 1424 coupled to a MEMS actuator 1422 and two fixed slabs 1426 and 1428, each located on a separate side of the moveable slab 1424. A first fixed slab 1426 is located on a first side of the moveable slab 1424 that is nearest the output of the interferometer 1404 towards the detector 1406, while a second fixed slab 1428 is located on a second side of the moveable slab 1424 opposite the first side and nearest the input of the interferometer 1404. The first fixed slab 1426 and the second fixed slab 1428 each have a length that is approximately half a length of the moveable slab 1424 and are positioned such that the first fixed slab 1426 is proximal to a first part of the moveable slab 1424 corresponding to a first half of the length of the moveable slab 1424 and the second fixed slab 1428 is proximal to a second part of the moveable slab 1424 corresponding to a second half of the length (e.g., the other half of the length) of the moveable slab 1426.

Thus, the first fixed slab 1426 is included within a first optical path (e.g., a sample arm) between a first input of the interferometer 1404 optically coupled to receive the reflected input beam from the sample 1410 and the focusing lens 1430, while the second fixed slab 1428 is included within a second optical path (e.g., a reference arm) between a second input of the interferometer 1404 optically coupled to receive the reflected input beam from the reference 1412 and the focusing lens 1430.

The MEMS actuator 1422 is configured to displace the moveable slab 1424 of the FP tunable filter 1420 to vary a sample gap g_s between the moveable slab 1424 and the first fixed slab 1426 such that the sample gap is increased (e.g., $g_s + \Delta$). The MEMS actuator 1422 is further configured to displace the moveable slab 1424 to vary a reference gap g_r between the moveable slab 1424 and the second fixed slab 1426 such that the reference gap is decreased (e.g., $g_r - \Delta$). The displacement of the moveable slab 1424 results in two different isolated spectral bands being coupled to the detector 1406 via focusing lens 1430, where a first band λ_s

corresponds to a sample interference signal detected by the detector 1406 and a second band λ_r corresponds to a reference interference signal detected by the detector 1406. The spectral range may be scanned by varying the gap of the FP tunable filter 1420. When both gaps are equal, the sample interference signal and the reference interference signal may be overlapping. However, a processor (not shown) may be configured to predict the overlapped band in order to isolate each signal (sample and reference).

FIG. 15A is a diagram illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer 1500. The spectrometer 1500 includes light sources 1502a and 1502b and an interferometer 1504. The interferometer 1504 may include an output coupled to a single detector (not shown). The light sources 1502a and 1502b may correspond, for example, to the light source 102 shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the interferometer 1504 may correspond to the interferometer 104 shown in FIG. 1. The spectrometer 1500 may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The spectrometer 1500 may further include a housing 1512 containing the light sources 1502a and 1502b and including a window 1506 on which a sample (e.g., SUT) 1510 may be placed. The housing 1512 further includes an opening 1514 forming an input or coupling aperture into the interferometer 1504. In some examples, the interferometer may include a Michelson interferometer, a MZ interferometer or a FP interferometer. In some examples, the interferometer 1504 may be implemented on a MEMS chip and the housing 1512 may be bonded to the MEMS chip.

In the example shown in FIG. 15A, the light sources 1502a and 1502b are optically coupled to emit respective source beams to illuminate the sample 1510 on the window 1506. Diffuse-reflected light from the sample 1510 may then be coupled as a first input beam to the input of the interferometer 1504 via the opening 1514, which may be measured as a sample signal (e.g., the first interference signal). A second input beam to the interferometer 1504 may include light back-reflected from the window 1506, which may then be input to the interferometer 1504 and measured as a background reference signal (e.g., the second interference signal). In this example, the window 1506 extends under and around the sample 1510 and is coupled to respective sides of the housing 1512. To enable simultaneous measurement of the sample 1510 and the background (e.g., back-reflected light from the window 1506), the window 1506 may include an anti-reflection coating 1508 selected to totally reflect a desired range of the spectrum and to pass a remaining range of the spectrum to the sample 1510 to be reflected from the sample 1510.

The wavelength range reflected from the window 1506 may be used to estimate the entire background signal, as illustrated in the graph of FIG. 15B. In the example shown in FIG. 15B, the spectrometer may simultaneously measure both a sample interference signal across a sample spectrum and a background interference signal across a background spectrum. The sample spectrum has a wavelength range of between 1400 and 2500 nm, while the background spectrum has wavelength ranges of between 1300 nm and 1400 nm and between 2500 nm and 2600 nm. The measured background (BG) spectrum (e.g., between 1300 nm and 1400 nm and between 2500 nm and 2600 nm) may be utilized to estimate the remaining portion of the background (BG) signal (e.g., between 1500 nm and 2500 nm).

In some examples, the remaining portion of the background signal may be estimated using both the measured BG spectrum and a calibration reading of the background signal taken when a reference diffuse-reflectance standard is placed

on the window **1506**. The calibration reading may be updated periodically to compensate for any changes in the spectrometer. In addition, readings from a temperature sensor (not shown) may also be utilized to compensate for any changes in the detector response due to temperature changes. In other examples, instead of providing an anti-reflection coating **1508** on the window **1506**, the back-reflection from the window **1506** (e.g., without a SUT or reference diffuse-reflectance standard present) may be utilized as the background signal. However, in this example, the background signal is not measured simultaneously with the sample signal.

FIGS. **16A** and **16B** are diagrams illustrating other examples of a self-referenced spectrometer **1600**. The spectrometer **1600** includes a first set of light emitters **1602a** and **1602b**, a second set of light emitters **1602c** and **1602d**, and an interferometer **1604**. The interferometer **1604** may include an output coupled to a single detector (not shown). The light emitters **1602a-1602d** may correspond, for example, to the light source **102** shown in FIG. **1**. In addition, the interferometer **1604** may correspond to the interferometer **104** shown in FIG. **1**. The spectrometer **1600** may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The spectrometer **1600** may further include a housing **1616** containing the light emitters **1602a-1602d** and including a window **1606** on which a sample (e.g., SUT) **1610** may be placed. The housing **1616** further includes an opening **1618** forming an input or coupling aperture into the interferometer **1604**. In some examples, the interferometer may include a Michelson interferometer, a MZ interferometer or a FP interferometer. In some examples, the interferometer **1604** may be implemented on a MEMS chip and the housing **1616** may be bonded to the MEMS chip.

In the example shown in FIG. **16A**, each set of light emitters (e.g., the first set of light emitters **1602a** and **1602b** and the second set of light emitters **1602c** and **1602d**) may be optically coupled to emit respective source beams to illuminate both the sample **1610** and the window **1606** simultaneously. However, the second set of light emitters **1602c** and **1602d** may be positioned near edges of the housing **1616** to produce more back-reflection from the window **1606** towards the opening **1618** than the first set of light emitters **1602a** and **1602b**. Thus, the reflected spectra resulting from light originating from each set of light emitters **1602a/1602b** and **1602c/1602d** may be different.

To extract the sample spectrum and the background spectrum, the light emitters **1602a-1602d** may be coupled to a switch **1614** configured to alternately turn on the first set of light emitters **1602a** and **1602b** and the second set of light emitters **1602c** and **1602d**. For example, the switch **1614** may turn on the first set of light emitters **1602a** and **1602b** and turn off the second set of light emitters **1602c** and **1602d** at a first time (t_1) to enable the interferometer **1604** to measure a first combined interference signal S_1 . Then, at a second time (t_2), the switch **1614** may turn off the first set of light emitters **1602a** and **1602b** and turn on the second set of light emitters **1602c** and **1602d** to enable the interferometer to measure a second combined interference signal S_2 . The combined interference signals S_1 and S_2 may be expressed as:

$$S_1 = aS_s + bS_R \quad (\text{Equation 4})$$

$$S_2 = cS_s + dS_R \quad (\text{Equation 5})$$

where S_s is the contribution of the sample interference signal, S_R is the contribution of the background interference

signal, and a , b , c , and d are constants representing ratios of adding the sample interference signal to the background interference signal. As a result, the signals S_1 and S_2 may be considered as originating from different light sources, and therefore the processor (not shown) may utilize a blind source separation (BSS) algorithm to extract S_s and S_R . In some examples, the switch **1614** may further be controlled by the processor.

In some examples, the window **1606** may include an optional blocking material **1608** extending along a top surface of the window **1606** and further extending below the window **1606** surrounding the sample **1610**. The blocking material **1608** may be designed to prevent light emitted from the second set of light emitters **1602c** and **1602d** from reaching the sample **1610** and to further prevent light emitted from the first set of light emitters **1602a** and **1602b** from reaching the window **1606** surrounding the sample **1610**. In this example, $S_1 = S_s$ and $S_2 = S_R$. However, in this example, the sample interference signal S_s and background interference signal S_R are measured separately (e.g., at time t_1 and t_2 , respectively).

In the example shown in FIG. **16B**, instead of using a background interference signal resulting from back-reflection from the window **1606** to process the sample interference signal, a reference diffuse reflectance material **1612** may be coupled between respective sides of the housing **1616** and the window **1606**. For example, the reference diffuse reflectance material **1612** may include an opening in the center thereof and a lip surrounding the opening to receive the window **1606**. In some examples, the window **1606** may further be bonded to the lip of the reference diffuse reflectance material **1612** to secure the window **1606** in place. In this example, a reference interference signal (instead of a background interference signal) may be extracted from the combined interference signals S_1 and S_2 . The sample and reference interference signals may be extracted using, for example, a BSS algorithm, as described above.

In some examples, the blocking material **1608** may further be included along a top surface of the reference diffuse reflectance material **1612** and surrounding the window **1606** such that light emitted from the second set of light emitters **1602c** and **1602d** is reflected by the reference diffuse reflectance material **1612** and coupled to the interferometer **1604** to produce the background interference signal, while light emitted from the first set of light emitters **1602a** and **1602b** is reflected by the sample **1610** and coupled to the interferometer to produce the sample interference signal. Thus, the light emitted from the first set of light emitters **1602a** and **1602b** contributes only to S_s , while light emitted from the second set of light emitters **1602c** and **1602d** contributes only to S_R . However, in this example, the sample interference signal S_s and background interference signal S_R are measured separately (e.g., at time t_1 and t_2 , respectively).

FIG. **17** is a diagram another example of a self-referenced spectrometer **1700**. The spectrometer **1700** includes two light sources **1702a** and **1702b**, an interferometer **1704** and two detectors **1706a** and **1706b**. Each of the light sources **1702a** and **1702b** may be optimized for a different spectral (wavelength) range. For example, light source **1702a** may be configured to emit a first input beam **1716** in a first spectral range (e.g., between λ_2 and λ_3), while the second light source **1702b** may be configured to emit a second input beam **1718** in a second spectral range (e.g., between λ_3 and λ_4). The light sources **1702a** and **1702b** may correspond, for example, to the light source **102** shown in FIG. **1**. In addition, the interferometer **1704** and the detectors **1706a**

and **1706b** may correspond to the interferometer **104** and detector **106**, respectively, shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the spectrometer **1700** may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The interferometer **1704** is a Michelson interferometer that includes a beam splitter **1708**, a fixed reflector **1710** (e.g., a fixed mirror), a moveable reflector **1712** (e.g., a moveable mirror), and a MEMS actuator **1714** coupled to the moveable reflector **1712**. The fixed mirror **1710** and the moveable mirror **1712** are each flat mirrors. In the example shown in FIG. 17, the first and second input beams **1716** and **1718**, respectively, are each input to the beam splitter **1708**, which is optically coupled to split each of the input beams into respective incident beams. For example, the beam splitter **1708** may split the first input beam **1716** into a first incident beam **1720** and a second incident beam **1722** and may direct the first incident beam **1720** towards the fixed mirror **1710** and the second incident beam **1722** towards the moveable mirror **1712**. In addition, the beam splitter **1708** may split the second input beam **1718** into a third incident beam **1724** and a fourth incident beam **1726** and direct the third incident beam **1724** towards the fixed mirror **1710** and the fourth incident beam **1726** towards the moveable mirror **1712**.

The fixed mirror **1710** is optically coupled to reflect the received first and third incident beams **1720** and **1724**, respectively back towards the beam splitter **1708** as first and third reflected beams **1728** and **1732**, respectively. The moveable mirror **1712** is optically coupled to reflect the received second and fourth incident beams **1722** and **1726**, respectively, back towards the beam splitter **1708** as second and fourth reflected beams **1730** and **1734**, respectively. The moveable mirror **1712** is coupled to the MEMS actuator **1714** to produce a desired respective optical path difference (OPD) between the first and third reflected beams and the second and fourth reflected beams.

The first and second reflected beams **1728** and **1730**, respectively, interfere at the beam splitter **1708** to produce a first interfering beam **1736**, whereas the third and fourth reflected beams **1732** and **1734**, respectively, interfere at the beam splitter **1708** to produce a second interfering beam **1738**. The beam splitter **1708** is further optically coupled to direct the first interfering beam **1736** towards detector **1706a** to detect a first interference signal and the second interfering beam **1738** towards detector **1706b** to detect a second interference signal. A processor (not shown) may then utilize the interference signal detected by detector **1706b** as a reference signal in processing the interference signal detected by detector **1706a**. For example, the interference signal corresponding to the second spectral range detected by detector **1706b** may be used to compensate or calibrate any errors in the interference signal corresponding to the first spectral range detected by detector **1706a**. In this example, a first optical path is formed between a first input of the interferometer **1704** optically coupled to receive the first input beam **1716** and a first output thereof directing the first interfering beam **1736** towards the first detector **1706a**, whereas a second optical path is formed between a second input of the interferometer **1704** optically coupled to receive the second input beam **1718** and a second output thereof directing the second interfering beam **1738** towards the second detector **1706b**. In some examples, a sample and reference may be present at the respective outputs of the interferometer, as in FIG. 2, to produce sample and reference interference signals in different spectral ranges.

FIG. 18 is a diagram illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer **1800**. As in FIG. 17, the spec-

trometer **1800** includes two light sources **1802a** and **1802b**, an interferometer **1804** and two detectors **1806a** and **1806b**. Each of the light sources **1802a** and **1802b** may be optimized for a different spectral (wavelength) range. For example, light source **1802a** may be configured to emit a first input beam in a first spectral range (e.g., between λ_2 and λ_3), while the second light source **1802b** may be configured to emit a second input beam in a second spectral range (e.g., between λ_3 and λ_4). The light sources **1802a** and **1802b** may correspond, for example, to the light source **102** shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the interferometer **1804** and the detectors **1806a** and **1806b** may correspond to the interferometer **104** and detector **106**, respectively, shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the spectrometer **1800** may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The interferometer **1804** is a Michelson interferometer that includes two beam splitters **1808a** and **1808b**, two fixed reflectors **1810a** and **1810b** (e.g., fixed mirrors), two moveable reflectors **1812a** and **1812b** (e.g., moveable mirrors), and a MEMS actuator **1814** coupled to the moveable reflectors **1812a** and **1812b**. In some examples, each beam splitter **1808a** and **1808b** is optimized for the particular wavelength range produced by the corresponding light source **1802a** and **1802b**. For example, one of the beam splitters **1808a** may be an air/silicon beam splitter, while the other beam splitter **1808b** may be a hollow waveguide splitter, thus enabling the wavelength range to be extended into the UV/visible spectrum, where propagation inside of silicon may be lossy. Each of the beam splitters **1808a** and **1808b** may be monolithically integrated with the same MEMS actuator **1814**, as shown in FIG. 18.

In the example shown in FIG. 18, each input beam from a respective light source **1802a** and **1802b** is input to a respective beam splitter **1808a** and **1808b**, respectively, which is optically coupled to split each of the input beams into respective incident beams. For example, the beam splitter **1808a** may split the first input beam from the first light source **1802a** into a first incident beam and a second incident beam and may direct the first incident beam towards the first fixed mirror **1810a** and the second incident beam towards the first moveable mirror **1812a**. In addition, the second beam splitter **1808b** may split the second input beam from the second light source **1802b** into a third incident beam and a fourth incident beam and direct the third incident beam towards the second fixed mirror **1810b** and the fourth incident beam towards the second moveable mirror **1812b**.

The first fixed mirror **1810a** is optically coupled to reflect the received first incident beam back towards the first beam splitter **1808a** as a first reflected beam. The first moveable mirror **1812a** is optically coupled to reflect the received second incident beam back towards the first beam splitter **1808a** as a second reflected beam. In addition, the second fixed mirror **1810b** is optically coupled to reflect the received third incident beam back towards the second beam splitter **1808b** as a third reflected beam. The second moveable mirror **1812b** is further optically coupled to reflect the received fourth incident beam back towards the second beam splitter **1808b** as a second reflected beam. Each moveable mirror **1812a** and **1812b** is coupled to the MEMS actuator **1814** to produce a desired respective optical path difference (OPD) between the first and third reflected beams and the second and fourth reflected beams.

The first and second reflected beams interfere at the first beam splitter **1808a** to produce a first interfering beam towards the first detector **1806a**, whereas the third and fourth reflected beams interfere at the second beam splitter **1808b** to produce a second interfering beam towards the second

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detector **1806b**. A processor (not shown) may then utilize the interference signal detected by detector **1806b** as a reference signal in processing the interference signal detected by detector **1806a**, as described above. In this example, a first optical path is formed between a first input of the interferometer **1804** optically coupled to receive the first input beam and a first output thereof directing the first interfering beam towards the first detector **1806a**, whereas a second optical path is formed between a second input of the interferometer **1804** optically coupled to receive the second input beam and a second output thereof directing the second interfering beam towards the second detector **1806b**. In some examples, a sample and reference may be present at the respective outputs of the interferometer, as in FIG. 2, to produce sample and reference interference signals in different spectral ranges.

FIG. 19 is a diagram illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer **1900**. The spectrometer **1900** includes a light source **1902**, interferometer **1904** and two detectors **1906a** and **1906b**. The light source **1902** may correspond, for example, to the light source **102** shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the interferometer **1904** and the detectors **1906a** and **1906b** may correspond to the interferometer **104** and detector **106**, respectively, shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the spectrometer **1900** may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The interferometer **1904** is a Michelson interferometer that includes a beam splitter **1908**, a fixed reflector **1910** (e.g., a fixed mirror), two moveable reflectors **1912a** and **1912b**, and a MEMS actuator **1914** coupled to the moveable reflectors **1912a** and **1912b**. A first moveable reflector **1912a** is an optical path difference (OPD) multiplier corner mirror, while a second moveable reflector **1912b** is a flat mirror. The two different moveable reflectors **1912a** and **1912b** enable measuring the PSD of an input beam from the light source **1902** at two different resolutions simultaneously.

For example, a first optical path may be formed through the moveable flat mirror **1912b**, whereas a second optical path may be formed through the moveable OPD multiplier corner reflector. The second optical path through the flat moveable mirror **1912b** provides a resolution R_o , while the second optical path through the OPD multiplier corner reflector **1912a** provides a resolution R_o/n , with $n=2$ for the OPD multiplier corner reflector **1912a** shown in FIG. 19. In an example, if signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the first optical path through the moveable OPD multiplier reflector **1912a** is S_o , the SNR of the second optical path through the flat mirror **1910** is $2S_o$ (e.g., if the interferogram measured at detector **1906a** is truncated to produce a resolution of R_o).

FIG. 20 is a diagram illustrating another example a self-referenced spectrometer **2000**. The spectrometer **2000** includes a light source **2002**, interferometer **2004** and a single detector **2006**. The light source **2002** may correspond, for example, to the light source **102** shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the interferometer **2004** and the detector **2006** may correspond to the interferometer **104** and detector **106**, respectively, shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the spectrometer **2000** may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The interferometer **2004** is a Michelson interferometer that includes a beam splitter **2008**, a fixed reflector **2010** (e.g., a fixed mirror), two moveable reflectors **2012a** and **2012b**, and a MEMS actuator **2014** coupled to the moveable reflectors **2012a** and **2012b**. A first moveable reflector **2012a** is an optical path difference (OPD) multiplier corner mirror, while a second moveable reflector **2012b** is a flat mirror. Similar to the example shown in FIG. 19, the two different

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moveable reflectors **2012a** and **2012b** enable measuring the PSD of an input beam from the light source **2002** at two different resolutions. However, in the example shown in FIG. 20, a MEMS switch **2016** coupled to a flat mirror **2018** may be used to switch between the first optical path through the moveable OPD multiplier corner mirror **1912a** and the second optical path through the moveable flat mirror **1912b**. For example, the MEMS switch **2016** may be coupled to shift the flat mirror **2018** from a first position **2020** at which the first optical path is coupled to the detector **2006** and a second position **2022** at which the second optical path is coupled to the detector **2006**.

FIG. 21 is a diagram illustrating another example of a self-referenced spectrometer **2100**. The spectrometer **2100** includes a light source **2102**, interferometer **2104** and two detectors **2106a** and **2106b**. The light source **2102** may correspond, for example, to the light source **102** shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the interferometer **2104** and the detectors **2106a** and **2106b** may correspond to the interferometer **104** and detector **106**, respectively, shown in FIG. 1. In addition, the spectrometer **2100** may further include a processor and/or other circuitry (not shown, for simplicity).

The interferometer **2104** is a Michelson interferometer that includes a beam splitter **2108**, a fixed reflector **2110** (e.g., a fixed mirror), a moveable reflector **2112** (e.g., a moveable mirror), and a MEMS actuator **2114** coupled to the moveable reflector **2112**. The fixed mirror **2110** and the moveable mirror **2112** are both flat mirrors. The interferometer **2104** further includes a tap splitter or coupler **2116** at an input of the interferometer **2104** optically coupled to receive the input beam from the light source **2102** and to redirect a portion of the input beam to the second detector **2106b** to sample the light source power upon entering the interferometer. The tap splitter or coupler **2116** may further direct the remaining portion of the input beam to the interferometer **2104** for coupling an output thereof to the first detector **2106a**. The PSD measured at the second detector **2106b** may be utilized to compensate for source power variations or source noise in the interference signal measured at the first detector **2106a**.

Within the present disclosure, the word “exemplary” is used to mean “serving as an example, instance, or illustration.” Any implementation or aspect described herein as “exemplary” is not necessarily to be construed as preferred or advantageous over other aspects of the disclosure. Likewise, the term “aspects” does not require that all aspects of the disclosure include the discussed feature, advantage or mode of operation. The term “coupled” is used herein to refer to the direct or indirect coupling between two objects. For example, if object A physically touches object B, and object B touches object C, then objects A and C may still be considered coupled to one another—even if they do not directly physically touch each other. For instance, a first object may be coupled to a second object even though the first object is never directly physically in contact with the second object. The terms “circuit” and “circuitry” are used broadly, and intended to include both hardware implementations of electrical devices and conductors that, when connected and configured, enable the performance of the functions described in the present disclosure, without limitation as to the type of electronic circuits, as well as software implementations of information and instructions that, when executed by a processor, enable the performance of the functions described in the present disclosure.

One or more of the components, steps, features and/or functions illustrated in FIGS. 1-21 may be rearranged and/or combined into a single component, step, feature or function

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or embodied in several components, steps, or functions. Additional elements, components, steps, and/or functions may also be added without departing from novel features disclosed herein. The apparatus, devices, and/or components illustrated in FIGS. 1-21 may be configured to perform one or more of the methods, features, or steps described herein. The novel algorithms described herein may also be efficiently implemented in software and/or embedded in hardware.

It is to be understood that the specific order or hierarchy of steps in the methods disclosed is an illustration of exemplary processes. Based upon design preferences, it is understood that the specific order or hierarchy of steps in the methods may be rearranged. The accompanying method claims present elements of the various steps in a sample order, and are not meant to be limited to the specific order or hierarchy presented unless specifically recited therein.

The previous description is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to practice the various aspects described herein. Various modifications to these aspects will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and the generic principles defined herein may be applied to other aspects. Thus, the claims are not intended to be limited to the aspects shown herein, but are to be accorded the full scope consistent with the language of the claims, wherein reference to an element in the singular is not intended to mean "one and only one" unless specifically so stated, but rather "one or more." Unless specifically stated otherwise, the term "some" refers to one or more. A phrase referring to "at least one of" a list of items refers to any combination of those items, including single members. As an example, "at least one of: a, b, or c" is intended to cover: a; b; c; a and b; a and c; b and c; and a, b and c. All structural and functional equivalents to the elements of the various aspects described throughout this disclosure that are known or later come to be known to those of ordinary skill in the art are expressly incorporated herein by reference and are intended to be encompassed by the claims. Moreover, nothing disclosed herein is intended to be dedicated to the public regardless of whether such disclosure is explicitly recited in the claims. No claim element is to be construed under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112(f) unless the element is expressly recited using the phrase "means for" or, in the case of a method claim, the element is recited using the phrase "step for."

What is claimed is:

1. A self-referenced spectrometer, comprising:

an interferometer comprising an input, an output, and at least one optical component, wherein the input is optically coupled to receive an input beam and to direct the input beam along a first optical path to produce a first interfering beam and a second optical path to produce a second interfering beam, wherein the first interfering beam and the second interfering beam are produced prior to the output and exit the interferometer at the output via a same optical component of the at least one optical component;

an isolation component configured to isolate the first interfering beam from the second interfering beam in the interferometer;

a detector optically coupled to simultaneously detect a first interference signal produced from the first interfering beam and a second interference signal produced from the second interfering beam, wherein the first interference signal and the second interference signal indicate respective absorbances of light passing through different respective mediums external to the

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interferometer, wherein the light is associated with the first interfering beam and the second interfering beam; and

a processor coupled to the detector and configured to process the first interference signal and the second interference signal and to utilize the second interference signal as a reference signal in processing the first interference signal.

2. The spectrometer of claim 1, wherein the interferometer further comprises:

a beam splitter optically coupled to receive the input beam and to split the input beam into a first incident beam and a second incident beam;

a fixed reflector optically coupled to receive the first incident beam and to reflect the first incident beam towards the beam splitter to produce a first reflected beam;

a moveable reflector optically coupled to receive the second incident beam and to reflect the second incident beam towards the beam splitter to produce a second reflected beam; and

an actuator coupled to the moveable reflector to cause a displacement of the moveable reflector, wherein the displacement produces an optical path length difference between the first reflected beam and the second reflected beam.

3. The spectrometer of claim 2, wherein:

the beam splitter is further optically coupled to produce the first interfering beam from interference between the first reflected beam and the second reflected beam and to direct the first interfering beam along the first optical path;

the beam splitter is further optically coupled to produce the second interfering beam from interference between the first reflected beam and the second reflected beam and to direct the second interfering beam along the second optical path; and

the detector comprises a first detector optically coupled to detect the first interference signal and a second detector optically coupled to detect the second interference signal.

4. The spectrometer of claim 3, wherein:

the fixed reflector comprises a fixed retro-reflector; and the moveable reflector comprises a moveable retro-reflector.

5. The spectrometer of claim 4, wherein:

the interferometer comprises a Mach-Zehnder interferometer;

the beam splitter comprises a first beam splitter and a second beam splitter;

the fixed reflector further comprises a first flat mirror optically coupled to receive the first incident beam from the first beam splitter and to redirect the first incident beam towards the fixed retro-reflector;

the fixed retro-reflector is optically coupled to direct the first reflected beam towards the second beam splitter;

the moveable retro-reflector is optically coupled to receive the second incident beam from the first beam splitter;

the moveable reflector further comprises a second flat mirror optically coupled to receive the second reflected beam from the moveable retro-reflector and to redirect the second reflected beam towards the second beam splitter; and

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the second beam splitter is optically coupled to receive the first reflected beam and the second reflected beam and to produce the first interfering beam and the second interfering beam.

6. The spectrometer of claim 3, wherein:

the input beam comprises a first input beam comprising a first spectral range and a second input beam comprising a second spectral range different than the first spectral range;

the beam splitter is optically coupled to receive the first input beam and to split the first input beam into a first sub-incident beam and a second sub-incident beam;

the beam splitter is further optically coupled to receive the second input beam and to split the second input beam into a third sub-incident beam and a fourth sub-incident beam;

the fixed reflector is optically coupled to receive the first sub-incident beam and to reflect the first sub-incident beam towards the beam splitter to produce a first sub-reflected beam;

the fixed reflector is further optically coupled to receive the third sub-incident beam and to reflect the third sub-incident beam towards the beam splitter to produce a third sub-reflected beam;

the moveable reflector is optically coupled to receive the second sub-incident beam and to reflect the second sub-incident beam towards the beam splitter to produce a second sub-reflected beam;

the moveable reflector is further optically coupled to receive the fourth sub-incident beam and to reflect the fourth sub-incident beam towards the beam splitter to produce a fourth sub-reflected beam;

the beam splitter is further optically coupled to receive the first sub-reflected beam and the third sub-reflected beam and to produce the first interfering beam from interference between the first sub-reflected beam and the third sub-reflected beam; and

the beam splitter is further optically coupled to receive the second sub-reflected beam and the fourth sub-reflected beam and to produce the second interfering beam from interference between the second sub-reflected beam and the fourth sub-reflected beam.

7. The spectrometer of claim 1, wherein the first optical path comprises a sample arm and the second optical path comprises a reference arm, wherein the sample arm comprises a sample-under-test (SUT).

8. The spectrometer of claim 7, wherein the reference arm comprises a reference material.

9. The spectrometer of claim 8, wherein the reference material comprises a diffuse reflection surface.

10. The spectrometer of claim 9, further comprising: a micro-electromechanical-mechanical-system (MEMS) chip comprising the interferometer.

11. The spectrometer of claim 10, wherein the reference material comprising the diffuse reflection surface is fabricated within the MEMS chip.

12. The spectrometer of claim 9, wherein the reference material comprises a black silicon reflector.

13. The spectrometer of claim 9, wherein the reference material comprising the diffuse reflection surface is wafer-level bonded to the MEMS chip.

14. The spectrometer of claim 13, wherein the reference material comprises sandblasted glass.

15. The spectrometer of claim 7, wherein the processor is further configured to calculate an absorbance of the SUT based on a ratio of the first interference signal to the second interference signal.

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16. The spectrometer of claim 1, wherein:

the second optical path comprises a reference arm, wherein the reference arm comprises a reference material or reference filter; and

the processor is further configured to utilize the second interference signal to determine a wavelength correction amount applied to the first interference signal.

17. The spectrometer of claim 16, further comprising: a micro-electromechanical-mechanical-system (MEMS) chip comprising the interferometer, wherein the MEMS chip comprises a microfluidic channel containing the reference material.

18. The spectrometer of claim 1, further comprising: a light source configured to direct a source beam to a sample-under-test (SUT) and a reference material; wherein the SUT is optically coupled to reflect the source beam to produce a first input beam, and the reference material is optically coupled to reflect the source beam to produce a second input beam, wherein the input beam comprises the first input beam and the second input beam;

wherein the interferometer is optically coupled to receive the first input beam reflected from the SUT and the second input beam reflected from the reference material and to produce the first interfering beam from the first input beam and the second interfering beam from the second input beam.

19. The spectrometer of claim 18, wherein the interferometer comprises a Michelson interferometer or a Fabry-Perot interferometer.

20. The spectrometer of claim 18, wherein the interferometer further comprises:

a beam splitter optically coupled to receive the first input beam and the second input beam and to split the first input beam into a first incident beam and a second incident beam and to split the second input beam into a third incident beam and a fourth incident beam;

a fixed reflector optically coupled to receive the first incident beam and the third incident beam, to reflect the first incident beam towards the beam splitter to produce a first reflected beam, and to reflect the third incident beam towards the beam splitter to produce a third reflected beam; and

a moveable reflector optically coupled to receive the second incident beam and the fourth incident beam, to reflect the second incident beam towards the beam splitter to produce a second reflected beam, and to reflect the fourth incident beam towards the beam splitter to produce a fourth reflected beam;

wherein the beam splitter is further optically coupled to produce the first interfering beam from interference between the first reflected beam and the second reflected beam and to direct the first interfering beam towards the detector;

wherein the beam splitter is further optically coupled to produce the second interfering beam from interference between the third reflected beam and the fourth reflected beam and to direct the second interfering beam to the detector;

wherein the first optical path comprises the first incident beam, the second incident beam, the first reflected beam, the second reflected beam, and the first interfering beam; and

wherein the second optical path comprises the third incident beam, the fourth incident beam, the third reflected beam, the fourth reflected beam, and the second interfering beam.

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21. The spectrometer of claim 20, wherein:
the fixed reflector comprises a first fixed reflector optically coupled to receive the first incident beam and a second fixed reflector optically coupled to receive the third incident beam; and
the first fixed reflector is spatially offset from the second fixed reflector with respect to the beam splitter by a distance configured to avoid cross-coupling between the first interference signal and the second interference signal such that the first fixed reflector and the second fixed reflector form the isolation component;
the detector comprises a single detector optically coupled to detect a combined interference signal comprising the first interference signal and the second interference signal; and
a sample interferogram burst of a sample interferogram obtained from the first interference signal is spatially separated from a reference interferogram burst of a reference interferogram obtained from the second interference signal based on the distance.
22. The spectrometer of claim 20, wherein the interferometer further comprises:
a thin film Fabry-Perot slab optically coupled to receive the second input beam and to provide the second input beam to the beam splitter, wherein the isolation component comprises the thin film Fabry-Perot slab.
23. The spectrometer of claim 18, wherein the isolation component comprises a first flat mirror optically coupled to receive the first input beam reflected from the SUT, a second flat mirror optically coupled to receive the second input beam reflected from the reference material, and a reflecting element optically coupled to reflect the first input beam from the first flat mirror to the interferometer and the second input beam from the second flat mirror to the interferometer.
24. The spectrometer of claim 23, wherein the isolation component further comprises a splitter optically coupled to receive the input beam from the wideband light source and to split the input beam into the first input beam directed towards the SUT and the second input beam directed towards the reference material.
25. The spectrometer of claim 24, wherein the isolation component further comprises a first reflective surface optically coupled to receive the first input beam from the splitter and to direct the first input beam towards the SUT and a second reflective surface optically coupled to receive the second input beam from the splitter and to direct the second input beam towards the reference material.
26. The spectrometer of claim 1, further comprising:
a window comprising a sample-under-test (SUT);
a reflective surface coupled to the window;

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- a source optically coupled to emit a source beam and to direct the source beam to the window and the reflective surface;
wherein the SUT is optically coupled to diffuse reflect a first spectral range of the source beam to produce a first input beam;
wherein the reflective surface is optically coupled to reflect a second spectral range of the source beam to produce a second input beam;
wherein the input beam comprises the first input beam and the second input beam;
wherein the first interference signal comprises the first spectral range and the second interference signal comprises the second spectral range;
wherein the detector is optically coupled to receive a combined interference signal comprising the first interference signal and the second interference signal; and
wherein the processor is further configured to estimate a background signal based on the first interference signal and stored calibration measurements.
27. The spectrometer of claim 26, wherein the window comprises the reflective surface and the reflective surface comprises an anti-reflection coating on the window.
28. The spectrometer of claim 26, wherein the source comprises a first set of light emitters and a second set of light emitters, and further comprising:
a switch controlled by the processor and coupled to the first set of light emitters and the second set of light emitters, wherein the switch is configured to alternately turn on the first set of light emitters and the second set of light emitters.
29. The spectrometer of claim 28, wherein:
the detector is optically coupled to receive a first combined interference signal comprising a first portion of the first interference signal and a first portion of the second interference signal when the first set of light emitters is turned on;
the detector is optically coupled to receive a second combined interference signal comprising a second portion of the first interference signal and a second portion of the second interference signal when the second set of light emitters is turned on; and
the processor is further configured to extract the first interference signal and the second interference signal from the first combined interference signal and the second combined interference signal.
30. The spectrometer of claim 28, wherein the reflective surface comprises a reference diffuse reflectance material.

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